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HEY SMALL SPENDER

Lottery winner who still has a taste for the simple life, **page 13**

WIN A HOLIDAY

You could soon be on your way to Jordan **Competition details, page 8**

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THE TIMES

No. 65,227 WEDNESDAY MARCH 29 1995

Alarm over compulsory retirement

Over-70s rule forces law lords to quit

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

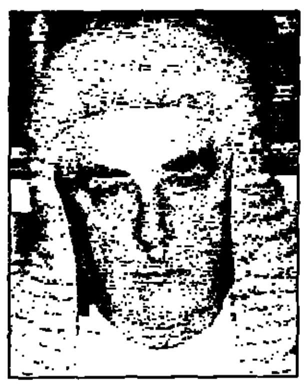
SOME of the country's most distinguished judges will be forced from the bench this week when new compulsory retirement ages come into force.

No judge over 75 will be allowed to sit after Friday, and the normal retirement age will be reduced to 70. This means that the former Lord Chief Justice Lord Lane, Lord Bridge of Harwich, Lord Lowry, Lord Templeman, Lord Roskill and Lord Ackner (from July) will all be barred from judicial work.

These senior judges have all retired, but have been helping with the heavy load of Privy Council and Court of Appeal cases when there is a shortage of serving law lords. Only last week, Lord Lowry gave the leading judgment in a landmark ruling on the age of criminal responsibility.

Under the Judicial Pensions and Retirements Act, 1993, all judges appointed from now on must retire at 70, although the Lord Chancellor will have discretion to call on them to help out until they are 75. At present, judges can continue to sit for as long as the Lord Chancellor wishes beyond the normal retirement ages of 75 for a High Court judge and 72 for a circuit judge.

A new pensions scheme also comes into effect on Friday, requiring judges to serve 20 years (rather than 25) to qualify for their pensions. The combined effect of the legislation means that judges must be appointed before they are 50 if they are to earn a full pension and some judges predict that this will make it harder to recruit to the bench, as younger advocates at the peak of their earning power decide against switching to the less well-paid life of a judge.



Lane: "jolly nice chaps and interesting work"

The pensions law was passed in the face of unanimous opposition from the judiciary in 1992, and the Government only just avoided defeat in the Lords.

Possible problems raised by the legislation were highlighted at the time by Lord Taylor when the Bill went through Parliament. He said the 20-year pension rule would undermine the aim of reducing the retirement age, cause serious recruitment problems and lead to judicial staleness and injustice.

Other judges have predicted that the new rules would mean delays in hearings, and some believe the implementation of the Act has been delayed until now because of the likely difficulty in finding potential judges. In the past two years there has been active recruitment to the High Court bench, with some 34 judges appointed — more than a third of the total.

But the Lord Chancellor's Department denied yesterday that a shortage of judges was the reason it had taken two years to bring the new law into force. "The regulations have been extremely complex and technical, and it has taken that long to get them into a shape that would work," a spokesman said.

Philip Vallance-White, principal clerk in the judicial office at the House of Lords, also denied that there would be delays in hearings, saying: "There has never been an occasion when an appeal had to be dropped from the list because five lords of appeal in ordinary were not available, and I don't expect that to happen now."

But asked whether the new law would mean delays, Lord Lane said: "I should have thought it would, particularly with a couple of judges out of context at present." (Lord Nolan, chairing the inquiry into standards in public life, and Lord Woolf, inquiring into civil justice.)

Lord Lane, 76, who last sat on a constitutional appeal to the Privy Council concerning two death row prisoners in Barbados, was sorry to be leaving the bench. "Of course I am regretful," he said. "I have thoroughly enjoyed it. They're a jolly nice bunch of chaps and the work is interesting."

Lord Denning, the former Master of the Rolls who is now "aged 96 and two-twelfths", last night criticised compulsory retirement of judges, saying: "You can often do good work after 75; I think I did some of my best work, gave some of my judgements of greatest value, after 75."

Lord Denning, who retired at 83, said that when the time came for a judge to go, "These things can be done quite informally — an intimation from your colleagues is passed on and he goes by it. I did this with Lord Widgery (Lord Chief Justice before Lord Lane): an intimation from me and he wrote to the Lord Chancellor immediately."

David Pannick QC, author of Judges also criticised compulsory retirement yesterday, saying: "People should be judged on their individual merits. Many judges over the compulsory retiring age are more than capable of continuing to do the job."

Labour wins review of courts martial

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S Armed Forces' court-martial system, the origins of which go back to 1385, is to be reviewed as a result of pressure from Labour MPs. Roger Freeman, the Defence Procurement Minister, agreed in the Commons yesterday to discuss possible changes in time for the next review of the Armed Forces Act, which is renewed every five years.

Although the Ministry of Defence made clear last night that Mr Freeman was not promising reforms, he said he was happy to hold all-party talks on the court-martial system. The possibility of a change comes in the wake of the increasing concern of MPs that military courts are no longer suitable for trying serious cases.

Courts martial often try serious criminal cases abroad where no British judges or counsel are available. George Galloway, Labour MP for Glasgow Hillhead, cited the case of Christina Menzies, 16, the daughter of Staff Sergeant John Menzies, a constituent, who was murdered in a military barracks in Germany.

He said in the Commons that the military police, who were soldiers with police armbands, and the military prosecutor — "just a soldier in a wig" — had blundered in the case, adding: "The murderer walked free and is still at large and serving in Her Majesty's services."

Mr Freeman said everyone understood the grief of Christine's parents, who were in the Strangers' Gallery to hear the exchanges. "Anyone who is a parent will share the deep shock and the tragic loss," he said.

But he told Mr Galloway that he could not order the reopening of the trial. "It has been held and you have your deeply held views about the conclusion of that trial. It is not open to a Minister of the Crown to reopen that trial," he said.

DAVID BRENCHLEY

A crewman hoists the Canadian flag on the *Keriolet* in Newlyn harbour yesterday

Spain sends in navy after Canada cuts fishing nets

FROM EDWARD OWEN IN MADRID AND JAMES LANDALE

A SPANISH Navy frigate was yesterday preparing to sail immediately to the northwest Atlantic to protect 17 Spanish vessels fishing for Greenland halibut off Newfoundland.

Canadian patrol vessels have already seized one Spanish trawler and cut the nets of another in the area.

Tomorrow a second Spanish fisheries patrol vessel, the *Serviola*, will arrive in the disputed area to join the *Vigia*. Both the Spanish boats, with a range of 8,000 miles, have a crew of 42 and are armed with a 76mm cannon and two machineguns.

"Their task is to stop the harassment, boarding and capture of the Spanish fishing boats by the Canadians," a spokesman at the Defence Ministry in Madrid said. "But they are expressly forbidden to use arms." In the Commons yesterday William Waldegrave, the Agriculture and Fisheries Minister, said that Canada's decision to cut the nets of a Spanish trawler off Newfoundland on Sunday could have been fatal.

"Cutting the wires of a big trawler could have capsized the boat and killed someone, in which case the whole moral advantage which the Canadians have established would have been lost in one go," he said. "We have a very great deal of sympathy with the Canadians. We and other nations know there are questions about the Spanish obedience to the rules. But cutting nets is dangerous and illegal and the Canadians are in danger of ruining a good case by that kind of action."

Mr Waldegrave also attacked Emma Bonino, the European Fisheries Commissioner, for using "intemperate and unwise" words by accusing Canada of piracy after breaking off talks on Monday.

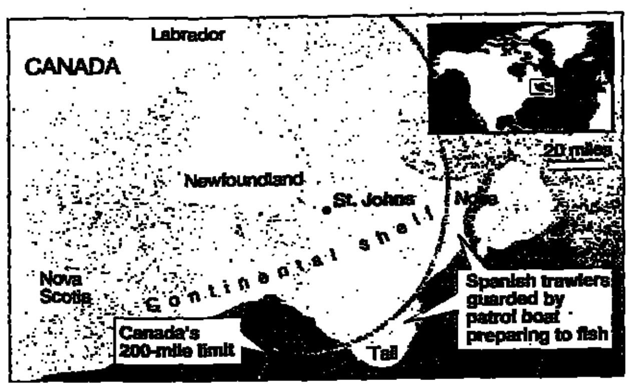
Speaking in response to a question put forward by Labour, the Agriculture Minister told MPs that the dispute urgently needed to be settled and urged both sides "to show restraint in order to give the talks a chance of success".

He said that Canada was right to call for much tougher enforcement of the fisheries rules but that "this will only be achieved through negotiation and not unilateral action on the high seas".

Although the question of the EU imposing sanctions against Canada was not raised in the Commons, an official in Brussels said Britain would veto such action.

"If we are serious about conservation of fish and a proper agreement in the North Atlantic, what we need is a proper agreement, properly enforced, and that means legal agreement first," Mr Waldegrave said.

Canada claims that Spain is overfishing the area and catching undersized fish, especially Greenland halibut. Madrid, however, denies that it is exceeding its catch limits.



Illegal nets, page 8

Halifax merger to yield £500 share bonuses for millions

BY ANNE ASHWORTH

MORE than 10 million borrowers and savers will be in line for a £500 bonus when the Halifax Building Society becomes a £10 billion bank next year, after its merger with the Leeds Permanent.

Each customer should receive around £500-worth of free shares but to qualify savers must have at least £100 in their account. Extra payouts of an estimated £500 are likely to be be on offer for those who have been with the society for at least two years and have more than £1,000 invested. The amounts of shares given will be based on the balance in the account. Rob Thomas, building societies analyst at the City stockbrokers UBS estimates that those with £50,000 invested (the upper limit for the shareout) might receive as much as £3,000 in shares.

The High Court yesterday gave its assent to the scheme, after a friendly action brought by the Building Societies Commission, the industry watchdog, to clarify sections of the Building Societies Act which had seemed to prohibit such share distributions.

The ruling further highlighted the plight of half a million savers and borrowers with the Cheltenham & Gloucester who will not profit from the planned £1.8 billion Lloyds takeover. Other C&G investors stand to collect as much as £13,500. Cash payments to customers are covered by a different section of the Act. The much criticised C&G deal will be put to the vote this Friday in London at what now promises to be a stormy meeting.

The news of the High Court judgment was welcomed by the Independent Union of Halifax Staff. Ged Nichols, the general secretary, said the body would now be pressing for proposals on pay and conditions of staff after the merger. There was opposition from the Banking Insurance and Finance Union (BIFU). Ed Sweeney, the deputy general secretary, said: "Jobs and service to the customer must be protected. The proposed creation of Halifax plc, aiming to be the fourth biggest high street bank, is not necessarily good news for the customer or jobs. The Halifax should stick to its building society roots." The union has said that it will contest job losses and branch closures. The Leeds and the Halifax have assured staff that there will be no compulsory redundancies.

Serge Lourie, of the Halifax Action Group, which opposes the move, said: "The merger and the conversion will give less choice to investors and will lead to substantial job losses." Mr Lourie is also feels that the failure to announce details of the shareout, including qualifying dates, is keeping savers locked into the societies, unwilling to withdraw money for fear of losing out on the share distribution.

There was fresh criticism yesterday of the C&G from Douglas French, Conservative MP for Gloucester, who accused the society of continuing to ignore forthcoming changes to the Building Societies Act which could benefit some of the savers currently excluded from the £1.8 billion payout.

A Bill, which has been put forward by Mr French, seeks to restore rights to second named holders on accounts who have failed to qualify under the terms of the C&G deal. The society has now moved to include the 5,000 widows who were previously denied their bonuses.

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Father freed over 'false memory' abuse claims

BY PAUL WILKINSON

A FATHER accused of sexually assaulting his daughter after she recalled incidents from her childhood was freed by a court yesterday when the prosecution admitted that the memories were fictitious and had emerged during psychiatric counselling.

As the father, 48, walked free from Teeside Crown Court 17 months after he was first arrested there was criticism of the Crown Prosecution Service for proceeding with a prosecution based purely on evidence from the mentally disturbed woman.

The man, a shop worker from North Yorkshire, said that he believed his daughter, now 22, was suffering from false memory syndrome, which develops in patients who are regressed, often through hypnosis, back to their earliest memories in an effort to find the cause of a psychiatric disorder. They recall memories of events that never happened.

There is concern about the use of such evidence in court. Few convictions have resulted from it in British courts, but the technique is used in America.

A British Psychological Society report earlier this year said that most recovered memories were accurate where they were obtained without inappropriate pressure on the patient. However, the society warned that the use of hypnosis and suggestion could lead patients to "remember" events that had never happened.

The father's defence team had to obtain a court order to examine her medical records, which showed that she was prone to sexual fantasies.

Allegations against the father began when she was receiving therapy in 1992. During counselling at a North Yorkshire hospital, she said that her father had sexually molested her since she was seven.

The woman was arrested in 1993 for stealing from residents in a home where she had a job as a care worker and made the allegations then to police. The father was arrested in October and charged, with his family and friends backing his story that he was innocent.

The father, who has three other children, was found not guilty of two charges of rape, two of incest and three of indecent assault between 1977 and 1993 after the prosecution offered no evidence. Angus Stroyan QC, the Recorder of Newcastle upon Tyne, awarded him his defence costs.

The father said after the hearing that her mental problems began at 16 when she suffered from the slimmer's disease bulimia nervosa. "I still don't know what therapy she underwent at the hospital. My case mirrors exactly those of other men who were victims of the false memory syndrome ... I love her and I desperately want her to get better. What she did is a manifestation of illness and not wickedness." His daughter is still an outpatient at the hospital. His wife said: "We want her back home."

The Northallerton Health Services NHS Trust, which includes the hospital, declined to comment.

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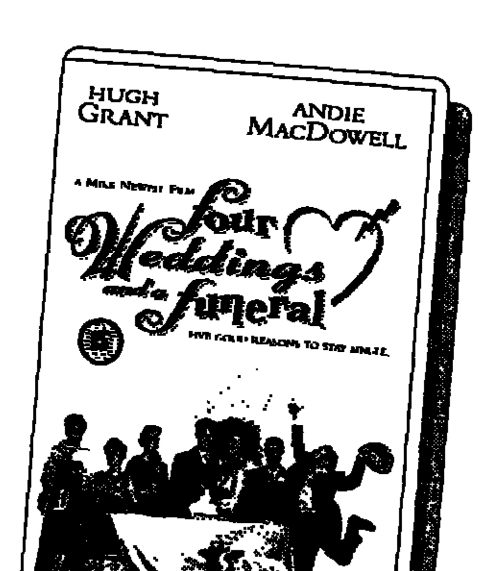
WE'RE SPEECHLESS!



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MPs flounder wildly as Commons codswallop trawls the depths

MATTHEW PARRIS

POLITICAL SKETCH

From a fish's point of view, yesterday was a depressing day in the Chamber.

Agriculture Minister William Waldegrave came to report on the Spanish-Canadian fisheries dispute. Peter Shore (Lab, Bethnal Green & Stepney) was afraid that Spain would soon singe the King of Newfoundland's beard, and warned of conflict on the high seas.

But the opening skirmish was between Labour spokesman Gavin Strang and Mr Waldegrave. The engagement lasted half an hour, Strang listing heavily to port and shipping water, Waldegrave sailing off over the horizon and several small craft skippered by Tory Euro-rebels firing confusedly in all directions.

Sitting an exam, a student, confronted by the question "*Discuss the Russo-Canadian fish war from the point of view of a) Russia; and b) Canada*," once wrote: "Unfamiliar with either, I shall discuss it from the point of view of the fish."

Through the eyes of a cod, Waldegrave was a flop. Four times he emphasised that disagreement was only about which nation should take the catch. From the point of view of the fish this is immaterial.

For MPs, however, it mattered a lot. They divide into factions, few of whom could tell a herring from a rock salmon but all of whom find, in fish, surrogates for a deeper conflict: between those who love and those who hate the European Union, those with sentimental ties to the old White Commonwealth, those intimidated by angry fishermen, and those (championed by Waldegrave) who simply wanted us to calm down.

These are not tidy categories. The clash therefore involved some manic flag-waving, no logic, much splashing about and a number of unintended casualties.

For the Opposition, Mr Strang all but capsized before anyone had opened fire. This was due mainly to an inability to read his own notes or to get his tongue around phrases like "conserving fish stocks". His question "Will the Rt Hon Gentleman accept that fish do not recognise national boundaries?" was greeted with hilarity; and when Waldegrave stammered "It's quite a long way across the Atlantic," the exchange took on a post-Oscars air of Forrest Gumpery.

Protesting that he was fond of Canada as the next man, Waldegrave dropped it lightly into conversation that "Newfoundland was discovered from my constituency". One of his relations, he added, had lent his name to a Canadian fishing vessel.

It got worse. The Tories' Sir Don Thompson (probably because he loves Canada) reminded Waldegrave that the table at which he stood was a gift of Canada. Waldegrave protested that the dispatch box was a gift of New Zealand, which was also true, but irrelevant. Probably because he hates the EU, and inwardly cursing the fates for placing Southend on the non-Canadian side of England, Sir Teddy Taylor (C, Southend E, Death to the Dagos Faction) invoked Canada's magnificent war record.

David Harris (C, St Ives, Calm Down Faction) called for more inspection; there was a confused exchange about net-cutting; a few MPs told anti-Spanish stories; Miss Boothroyd called "We're going to move on!"; everyone shouted "Arrrr!"; and Waldegrave sailed off, nets uncut and options open.

And the fish's viewpoint? Only landlocked, seal-loving Tony Banks (Lab, Newham NW) spoke for the fish. He wants to conserve cod.

But for seals to eat! Weep, herrings; grieve, cod! There are votes in seals, there are votes in Canada, there are votes in Brussels and there are votes in fishermen. But there are no votes in fish.

Tory Central Office denies orchestrated campaign against corporation

Howard adds his voice to onslaught on BBC 'bias'

By Nicholas Wood and Alice Thomson

RUSSELL BOYCE

Jeremy Hanley, flanked by Michael Howard, takes a question at yesterday's local elections press conference

THE Cabinet was at the throat of the BBC last night after Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, led a fresh wave of ministerial allegations of biased reporting. Although John Major stayed above the fray in the Commons, senior Conservative Party officials said later he was "comfortable" with the onslaught by his lieutenants.

Labour MPs accused Mr Major of getting others to do his dirty work and the opposition parties claimed that ministers were trying to browbeat the BBC in the run-up to the local elections. Nick Harvey, the Liberal Democrat campaigns director, admitted: "So far, it is working."

Adding his voice to those of Jonathan Aitken, Stephen Dorrell and John Gummer earlier in the week, Mr Howard denounced the prominence given by the BBC yesterday to a Labour crime survey claiming that some offences have tripled since the Tories came to power.

At a Conservative Central Office local elections news conference he accused BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme of making the story the second lead while the "good news" story that electricity bills would fall by 2 per cent for millions of customers from next week was relegated to the business section.

The BBC said in a statement: "We stand by the integrity of our journalists. Jack Straw held a news conference on crime. All claims put forward are assessesd carefully and impartially but pegs for stories do come from sources other than the Government."

Jeremy Hanley, the Tory party chairman, stepped into the row and said that wherever he went around the country it was now widely accepted that news could be fairer and reeled off pre-prepared examples of alleged bias.

Tory officials, who have stepped up their monitoring of the BBC's output, said they were not protesting about robust questioning. They merely wanted the BBC to ensure spokesmen for Labour and pressure groups were subjected to the same rigorous scrutiny.

Central Office denied that it was running an orchestrated campaign against the BBC. And John Maples, a Tory party deputy chairman, said on BBC radio that it was "perfectly reasonable" for ministers to draw attention to what they felt was the unfair treatment of news. "There is nothing concerted about this."

In the Commons, Margaret Hodge, Labour MP for Barking, drew cheers from her own side when she said it was time the Tories paid attention to the *Daily Mail* and Sir Bernard Ingham, the former Downing Street press secretary, and "stopped whingeing". Mr Major appeared to sidestep the row by saying that he "welcomed truthful reporting".

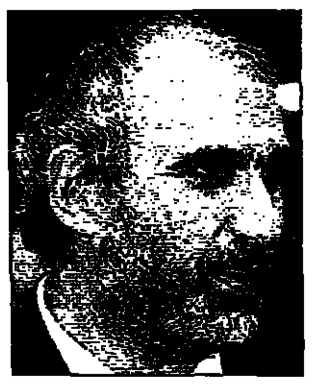
Not all Tories were keen on the media blitz. Sir Edward Heath said: "I would say shut up about the BBC and what it does and get down to the brass tacks of answering the points which have been made."

☐ Lord Wakeham, chairman of the Press Complaints Commission, warned yesterday that plans to introduce legislation outlawing electronic bugging and the use of telephoto lenses could backfire on the Government as backbench MPs attempted to attach amendments to it that would introduce far stricter controls on the press than either the Government or the industry intended.

Peter Riddell, page 7
Media, page 31

Yentob says government attack could backfire

By Alexandra Frean
Media Correspondent



Yentob: some criticism from MPs to be expected

THE controller of BBC1 warned the Government yesterday against all-out war as ministers stepped up their assault on the corporation. Alan Yentob said claims by senior Tories that the BBC was biased against the Government had no basis in fact.

"It would be counterproductive for the Conservative Party to allow a Tebbit-like offensive on the BBC as we come up to an election. I think they can see that within the corporation commonsense is still there," he said.

Mr Yentob, who was on a tour of the Pebble Mill studios in Birmingham, added that the issue needed to be kept in proportion. "You would expect politicians to complain about interviewers and about the news media generally."

Senior managers at the BBC were also at pains to play down the conflict last night, claiming it was a low-level skirmish.

John Birt, the Director-General, and Marmaduke Hussey, chairman of the board of governors, have remained aloof from the controversy, leaving Tony Hall, head of news and current affairs, to field inquiries.

In an article in *The Times* today, Mr Hall says he is not surprised by the latest criticism: "The reason is not too hard to find. At present, we're in the middle of the Scottish local election campaign, with the local elections in England and Wales not far away. On top of that there's the global warming of the whole political climate as eyes begin to focus on the big prize of a general election," Mr Hall says.

Confidential BBC research obtained by *The Times* shows that few listeners agree with Jonathan Aitken, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, who triggered the conflict by accusing the Radio 4 presenter John Humphrys of "open partisanship" against the Government.

Asked whether they thought Mr Humphrys, of the *Today* programme, "too often reveals his own opinions" during interviews, 84 per cent of people questioned disagreed. Only 5 per cent strongly agreed. "Humphrys is more likely to be disliked by people aged over 65," a BBC source said. "But among younger people and ABs, he goes down a storm."

The corporation said yesterday that of the 193 calls from listeners and viewers it had received since Mr Aitken's criticism, 84 per cent were in support of Mr Humphrys and 16 per cent agreed with the minister.

Tony Hall, page 14

Schools back state funding proposal

By John O'Leary
Education Editor

HEADS of independent schools backed proposals to offer them a new role in state education yesterday, but were given little encouragement by the major political parties.

John Major declared himself "not enthusiastic" about an effective revival of the direct grant scheme, which would bring Manchester Grammar School and others back into the state system. Labour said schools would first have to abandon selection.

Many of the 120 former direct grant schools approached by George Walden, the former Conservative education minister, reacted favourably to his proposal. Parents would continue to pay fees, but pupils from low-income families have free places.

David Smith, the headmaster of Bradford Grammar School and a governor of MGS, said: "I am interested in anything that preserves our social mix, although we certainly would want to maintain our freedom in relation to selection."

None of the main parties ruled out the latest proposal, but all expressed serious reservations. Pressed for a reaction in the House of Commons, Mr Major said he was anxious to build bridges between state and independent education, but was not enthusiastic about the latest proposal.

Leading article, page 15

Leaders question diplomatic role

By Michael Binyon, Diplomatic Editor

JOHN MAJOR, Henry Kissinger, Sir David Puttnam and leading broadcasters, industrialists, bankers, environmentalists and diplomats are throwing aside the conventions of their office today to take part in an unprecedented debate on where Britain's interests lie in today's world.

An open-ended conference will question the fundamentals of British postwar diplomacy, including the transatlantic relationship, the role of Britain's armed forces, the promotion of business and the spread of English in an attempt to provoke a national debate about foreign policy.

The conference in Westminster will cost £300,000. Catering by Prue Leith for the 500 participants will include quails in chutney and monkfish hollandaise.

One of the messages the Government wants to come out of the conference is that Britain is leaner, meaner and more competitive than voters, allies and competitors realise. That message is reflected in statistics issued to underline the main conference themes: the global importance of Britain's armed forces, the supremacy of English, the interdependence of the British economy and the effectiveness of British aid.

Britain has 215 overseas embassies and consulates, compared with Germany with 240, Italy with 253 and France with 286. Running the Foreign Office costs £1.3 billion a year, half of which is spent on the British Council, the BBC World Service, the United Nations and peace-keeping. Some 8.6 million British citizens live overseas, and 34 million travel abroad. Britain ranks fifth for international trade, and exports are worth more per head than those of the United States or Japan.

Britain's stock of direct foreign investment is second only to America, and is twice as large, relative to GDP, as Japan or Germany. Daily turnover in the London currency markets in 1992 was $300 billion, compared with $192 billion in New York.

English is the native language of 350 million people. It has official status in 70 countries, and 60 per cent of all scientists speak English. By the year 2000 there will be a billion people learning English, earning Britain £500 million in language teaching and services.

Prince of Wales: will address the conference

The BBC World Service has an audience of more than 130 million — and more people listen to it than to its five closest competitors combined. Britain is the sixth largest tourist destination.

Thomas Stuttaford, page 6

Electricity firms cut bills by £6 a year

By a Staff Reporter

PRICE cuts of about £6 a year for more than four million domestic electricity customers have been announced by two of the regional power companies in England and Wales, with more expected to follow suit this week.

Southern Electric, with 2.5 million domestic and small business customers on the South Coast, is reducing prices by an average of 2.1 per cent from April 1, equivalent to a £6.36 cut from the average annual household bill of £303.

London Electricity, which has 1.9 million customers, 1.6 million of them domestic, is trimming its bills by a similar amount. The reductions of 7 per cent on standing charges and up to 2 per cent on prices will cut the current average bill of £282.50 by £5.93.

There were similar reductions by four other companies earlier this year, and more are expected. They have no link with the decision by the industry regulator, Offer, last Friday to institute a further review of the amount the companies charge.

Instead they relate to a ruling last August that the industry was required to implement by next month, which has since been largely discredited.

☐ Customers in Northern Ireland are facing price rises of 5.9 per cent from April 1. Northern Ireland Electricity, which is governed by a separate price regime and is permitted to raise prices, blamed the increase on the rising cost of power generation.

Inquiry into escape of murder suspect

The Prison Service has launched an investigation into how a Briton suspected of committing five murders abroad while on the run was able escape from prison. He was given home leave despite having absconded before. John Scripps is being held in Singapore for murdering a South African tourist and cutting up his body. Police believe he may be linked to the deaths of a further four victims in the Far East, Mexico and the United States.

Scripps vanished last October while on home leave from The Mount prison, Hertfordshire. On Monday the Prison Service denied reports he had absconded before. Yesterday it confirmed that he was convicted of drug smuggling in 1988 and sentenced to seven years. But in June 1990 he absconded while on home leave from Highpoint prison, Suffolk, and was arrested on the Isle of Wight for drug smuggling. He was given a second six-year consecutive sentence in January 1992 and became a category C prisoner, the lowest security.

Sinn Fein talks 'soon'

John Bruton, the Irish Prime Minister, said he was "fairly confident" that Sinn Fein and the British Government would soon agree to hold ministerial talks. Speaking after a meeting with Gerry Adams in Dublin, Mr Bruton said the two sides were acting in good faith and there was a "relatively small gap" to be bridged. Martin McGuinness, the leading Sinn Fein member, earlier sent a draft agenda for ministerial discussions to the Northern Ireland Office. He told officials that he was prepared to discuss any issue.

Clarke snubs rebels

Kenneth Clarke angered the whipless Tory rebels yesterday by turning down their request to discuss a single currency with him. Last night eight of the nine MPs issued a statement contrasting the Chancellor's behaviour with that of Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, who met them in his Commons office on Monday to hear their concerns about immigration. Sir Teddy Taylor, their unofficial leader, said: "I've been an MP for 31 years and I've never been refused a meeting by any minister, even a Labour minister."

Shire changes 'dearer'

The all-purpose local authorities that the Government wants in English shires are likely to cost more than the two-tier system they replace, the outgoing Local Government Commission said yesterday. Professor Malcolm Grant, acting chairman, also spoke of its dismay at the forced resignation of Sir John Banham, his predecessor.

Mother hurt in beating

A woman was struck in the face by suspected republican paramilitaries who broke her son's legs in a punishment beating in Strabane, Co Tyrone. Up to seven masked men broke into Teresa Connolly's home on a nationalist estate on Monday night, and beat her son John, 26, with hammers and iron bars as he lay in bed. They then set fire to his car.

Police forces sue IBM

Thirty-seven police forces in England and Wales are to sue IBM for allegedly failing to provide a computerised fingerprint system that works. The £5-million system, set up in 1992, is designed to store and match millions of criminals' fingerprints. However, several forces have returned to using paper records blaming longstanding computer problems.

Children die in car fire

Faran Kaur, 7, left, and Simranjit Singh, 9, died with their father when he doused their car in petrol and set it alight in front of his ex-wife. Friends of the family said yesterday that Harkamaljit Singh, 35, of Forest Hill, southeast London, seemed unable to accept that Amarjit Kaur, 30, had been granted custody of the children.

Parents in Gaelic protest

Parents on the Hebridean island of Barra are protesting about education cuts which they say will prevent children from being taught in their native language. Pupils at Castlebay primary school can have their first three years' schooling entirely in Gaelic, but Western Isles Council is planning to offer just two years' teaching in the language.

Sleepy guard loses claim

A security guard sacked for sleeping on the job during a 111-hour week lost his claim for unfair dismissal yesterday. Christopher Mountain, 20, of Simonside, South Shields, who once worked a 64-hour shift, had received two written warnings from Delta One Security, which told the tribunal that Mr Mountain had volunteered to work extra hours.

Britain's pet causes

The most recent annual figures for wills confirm that Britain remains a nation of animal lovers. A total of £582 million was left to the top 2,000 charities and those dedicated to the welfare of animals took the lion's share. The RSPCA was left £20 million, while Help the Aged received just £6.6 million.

90 year old Koyada has been forced to retire early.

Koyada has worked hard all her life. She often worked incredibly long hours, returning home exhausted. But her wages were always low - and she was forced to use every penny just to feed herself. But Koyada is now 90 and too frail to work any more. Fighting back tears she told us she didn't know how she would survive. With no family to help her, Koyada's future looks bleak.

Will you give Koyada the future she worked so hard to provide for herself? Just £10 a month ensures she receives life's basic essentials; food, medicine and clothing. In return you receive a photograph of your 'grandparent' and regular updates showing the difference your sponsorship is making.

If you would like to find out more about helping elderly people like Koyada, return the coupon now to: Mrs Helen Higgs, Ref: 9518APXTT04, Adopt a Granny, Help the Aged, FREEPOST, London EC1B 1JY.

YES, I want to know more about sponsoring an elderly person. Please tell me how I can help.

MR/MRS/MISS/MS

ADDRESS

POSTCODE TEL NO.

Send to Mrs Helen Higgs,
Ref: 9518APXTT04, Adopt a Granny,
Help the Aged, FREEPOST,
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Help the Aged
Adopt a Granny
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مكتبة امن الاجل

'I saw the lights heading for me and thought: God, I'm going to die'

Alive after 25,000 volts and train crash

By Bill Frost

A STUDENT, who was thrown into the path of a goods train by a 25,000-volt electric shock after he was chased on to a railway line by a gang of youths, spoke last night of his "remarkable luck" at having survived.

Lee Taylor, 22, spent five weeks in a coma and broke bones in his shoulder, hip, leg and chest and has regained his speech only after 20 operations. His surgeon said it was "very rare" for someone in his condition to have made such a recovery.

Mr Taylor, a business studies student, had been returning home after celebrating his birthday at a college disco in Crewe when he was set upon.

"I saw a gang of local lads and they shouted: 'Get him!' I *ran and jumped over a couple* of fences and up a pylon to escape. I didn't know where I *was and just sat on girder for a* while. When I thought they had gone I sat up and touched the cable."

He suffered multiple burns and the shock threw him 20 feet on to the track below. "I felt the shock. It was terrible. I remember lying there and then seeing the light of the train coming towards me.

"I just lay there and thought: 'Oh my God, I'm going to die. It's all over.' When the train hit me I was thrown up against a wall and crushed. I thought the pain would never stop," Mr Taylor said.

He was found at the side of the track and taken to the *burns unit at Whiston Hospital,* Merseyside. His injuries were so severe that his parents, Robert and Carol, of Talgarth, Powys, did not recognise him.

Mrs Taylor, 39, who donated skin from the back of her legs for grafting, said last night: "Lee is a fighter and, thank goodness, he survived. He is so determined. That strength has surprised his doctors — they say they have never encountered such courage. At first he could not speak after the accident. Now he has his voice back and it is so *wonderful to be able to talk to* him again."

After visiting his son, Mr *Taylor, 40, added: "It is an* absolute miracle that Lee survived. No one can explain it, but I *suppose there must be* someone up there looking after him."

Lee Taylor, a keen soccer player who has represented the Welsh Under-18s, has been transferred to Bronllys Hospital, Brecon, Powys, so he can be closer to his parents, who run a public house. He is receiving constant physiotherapy, but cannot yet lift himself out of a chair unaided.

"It is only now that I realise how close I came to death. I *think* being fit helped me in many ways, although I don't think I'll play football again," *he said. He hopes eventually* to return to his business studies course.

Dr Ian James, his plastic surgeon, said: "It is very rare for somebody with such extensive injuries coupled with such severe burns to recover as well as Lee has."

Police in Crewe have so far been unable to trace the gang of youths that chased him up the pylon.

Lee Taylor: spent five weeks in a coma

Ferrari show-off jailed for fatal crash

By A Staff Reporter

A MILLIONAIRE, who killed two pensioners when he crashed into their car while driving his wife's £130,000 Ferrari at high speed, was jailed for nine months yesterday.

Anthony Marsh, 54, had been showing off the Testarossa to his gardener *when he crashed near* his country home, Hereford Crown Court was told.

He had *experience* of driving high-powered vehicles but lost control and smashed into *a Nissan Micra being driven* by Joyce Davies, 61, of Birkenhead. She was killed instantly and her passenger, John Sparrow, 69, of Cowley, Oxfordshire, died shortly after.

Marsh, 54, of Romsley, Hereford and Worcester, had denied causing death by dangerous driving. He was found guilty on Monday and sentenced yesterday.

He requested community service rather than jail because he suffers severe depression, but Judge David Wilcox said he had a duty to respond to public outrage at the deaths.

He told Marsh: "Something that day caused you to go at a far faster speed than you are used to. Speed in such a car is something you knew would cause danger and which tragically led to the loss of two lives." Marsh, who became a millionaire when he sold his slot-machine company, was also disqualified *from* driving for seven years.

The brother of Mrs Davies *reacted angrily to the sentence.* "Marsh's cash bought the best lawyers and doctors to fight his case and he got value for money," Edward Blackwell, 63, said.

Marsh: caused death by dangerous driving

JOHN GILES

York was coated in more than 2in of snow yesterday. Elsewhere in the county, roads were closed and temperatures fell last night to -6C

Snow closes moorland roads

BLIZZARDS swept the country yesterday, causing traffic congestion in several counties. Falls of almost 6in were recorded on high ground in Co Durham, Northumberland and the Midlands while light snow fell persistently in many cities across Britain.

East Anglia, Yorkshire and Lincolnshire had falls of more than 3.5in and melting snow froze last night as temperatures dropped to -6C and made driving hazardous.

A number of roads across high ground were closed in the Staffordshire moorlands, the Peak District and South Yorkshire. Others were passable only with extreme care. Parts of the North, including the Vale of York, had more than 2in of snow in low-lying areas.

West Yorkshire Police said that visibility had been poor on the M62 yesterday morning and snow had turned to sleet by lunchtime. The A6024 between Holmfirth and Manchester, and the A635 Greenfield Road were temporarily closed and the A640 was passable only with care.

AA Roadwatch said that East Anglia appeared to be suffering the worst driving conditions, with blizzards reducing visibility to 150 yards in some areas. A number of roads were closed in North Wales, and London saw thick snow flurries, settling in places.

The cold snap is expected to end today. Temperatures will become warmer in most areas, except the extreme north, and there should be plenty of sunshine. By the end of the week temperatures in the South East could reach 15C (59F), above average for the time of year.

Forecast, page 20

Safari Boy sentenced to 12 free driving lessons after police chase

By A Staff Reporter

THE young offender known as Safari *Boy, who spent 88 days on a character*-building tour of Africa, was yesterday ordered to take 12 free lessons in safe *driving — and disqualified from driving* for a year — as part of an alternative to a custodial sentence.

Mark Hook's solicitor told Gloucester Magistrates' Court that the 18-year-old was possibly the most famous person in the county and probably *the best-known* to its police, and that fame was placing a strain on him.

Hook led police on a car chase in December two weeks after being released from a nine-month sentence of youth custody. *He admitted in February driving* dangerously, while disqualified and without insurance. After reading a pre-sentence report yesterday, the bench *decided to give Hook another chance.* The youth, whose record fills three pages and who usually offends every few days, had *not been in trouble for three months.*

He was fined £100, told to perform 100 hours of community service, put on *probation for 18 months and disqualified* from driving for a year. Hook was also instructed to take a driving course run by *probation officers, involving lectures* from police and road safety officers, driving lessons on private land and *tuition in vehicle maintenance.*

The presiding magistrate, Jeremy Dancey, said: "This is going to give you the opportunity *to prove to yourself,* the court, *the public and the press* that you can behave yourself." Hook's solicitor, Steve Young, said: "It is a fact that he is sick and tired of all this attention. It is an extra burden on him. Having to run the gauntlet of the press each time he appears *in court is an extra pressure."*

Hook was "probably better known to the members of the constabulary in *Gloucestershire than anyone else in the* county. It may be that he is the best known person to the public in the county *as well."*

In 1993 Hook was sent to Bryn Melyn rehabilitation centre near Bala, Gwynedd, *while awaiting sentence for a string* of offences. He was taken on a £7,000 safari to Egypt, Kenya, Zimbabwe and *Zambia. Politicians denounced the trip.*

Frederick West body removed from mortuary

By Bill Frost

UNDERTAKERS have removed the body of Frederick West *from* the *mortuary* where it has been kept since the alleged mass murderer's apparent suicide at Winson Green *prison on New Year's* Day, 12 weeks ago.

A spokeswoman at the *Birmingham coroner's office* confirmed that the 53-year-old Gloucester builder's remains were collected *on* Monday afternoon. The body was apparently released to Stephen *and Mae West, his* eldest surviving children.

Stephen West was one of the *few allowed to visit his father* while he was on remand awaiting trial. He claimed in a *newspaper report* that Frederick West admitted killing all 12 of his alleged victims.

Shortly after West's death the coroner said that he would formally release the body to the care of Mrs Anne Marie Davis, 30, West's daughter by his first wife Catherine Costello West. However, it had since lain in the mortuary.

It was not clear yesterday where the body had been taken. There were reports that a cremation *may* be held "within the next few days".

Frederick West's widow Rosemary, facing trial for allegedly murdering ten of the girls, is apparently not interested in the fate of her late husband's remains. Leo Goatley, her solicitor, has said: "Any kind of tie that existed was severed long before he died. Rose has not mentioned him."

Residents in Much Marcle, the village where he grew up, have threatened protest action against any move to bury West near his parents' graves. Meanwhile, people living near Gloucester crematorium have said they will "block the road" if any attempt is made to hold the funeral there.

SATURDAY IN THE TIMES

Stars of style

CLOTHES BY GIANNI VERSACE,
PHOTOGRAPHS BY RICHARD AVEDON
IN THE
MAGAZINE

PLUS: WEEKEND, CAR 95, WEEKEND MONEY AND VISION — THE 7-DAY TV AND RADIO GUIDE

THE SIX-SECTION TIMES IS
30P ON SATURDAY

Paranoid ex-patient stabbed housemate

By Kathryn Knight

A PARANOID schizophrenic killed his housemate only six *months* after being released from hospital under the Government's care-in-the-*community scheme,* a court was told yesterday.

After a dispute over cleaning the bath in January last year, Adrian Holloway, 28, stabbed Moraj Mohammed Akhtar, 37, in the chest. Mr Akhtar, an Afghan refugee, had a history of psychiatric illness, the Old Bailey was told. Holloway was found guilty of manslaughter but cleared of murder.

The jury was told that Holloway, who was described by a doctor as dangerous when not receiving treatment, had been released from St Peter's Hospital in Chertsey, Surrey, in June 1993. He moved into a house in Southall, west London, which was used for patients considered capable of living in the *community.*

Mr Justice Macpherson of Cluny ordered Holloway to be *detained in a secure hospital.*

Sadist killed after dreams of violence

A SADIST who had dreamt of killing for years was sent to *Rampton high security hospital* yesterday after admitting he strangled and stabbed his *girlfriend to death.*

After killing Zacherley Brynin, Alan Hall told police: *"It is a relief having murdered* someone, you know. I have often thought about killing *someone. I knew I would do it* for ages but it was not planned, it just happened."

Hall, 29, *from* central London, had denied murdering Miss Brynin, 22, on June 29 last year but admitted manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility.

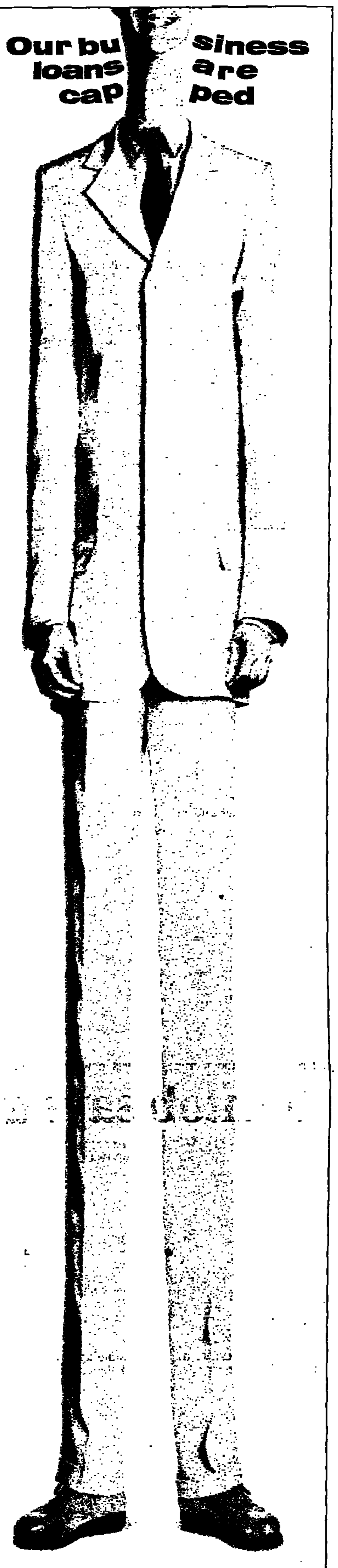
His plea was accepted after the court was told that three psychiatrists agreed he suffered from a severe psychopathic disorder of a sexual and sadistic nature. "You are a grave and immediate danger to others," Judge Denison, Common Serjeant in the City of London, said at the Old Bailey.

He ordered that Hall be sent to Rampton for assessment over 12 weeks, adding: "I do not know whether your condition is susceptible to medical *treatment and until I do* I cannot dispose of the case." Miss Brynin, whose mother lives in Hampstead, north-west London, and father in Belgium, had wanted to become a model.

She absconded from a halfway house where she was receiving treatment for schizophrenia and within days moved into Hall's home. Hall told police that he had put a flex round her neck and stabbed her with a pair of scissors. He said she had done nothing to upset him; it was an entirely unprovoked attack.

He said he had had waves of violence overcome him over *five years,* mainly towards strangers. "I have often had thoughts of killing in my *mind,"* Hall said.

Brynin: strangled and stabbed by boyfriend



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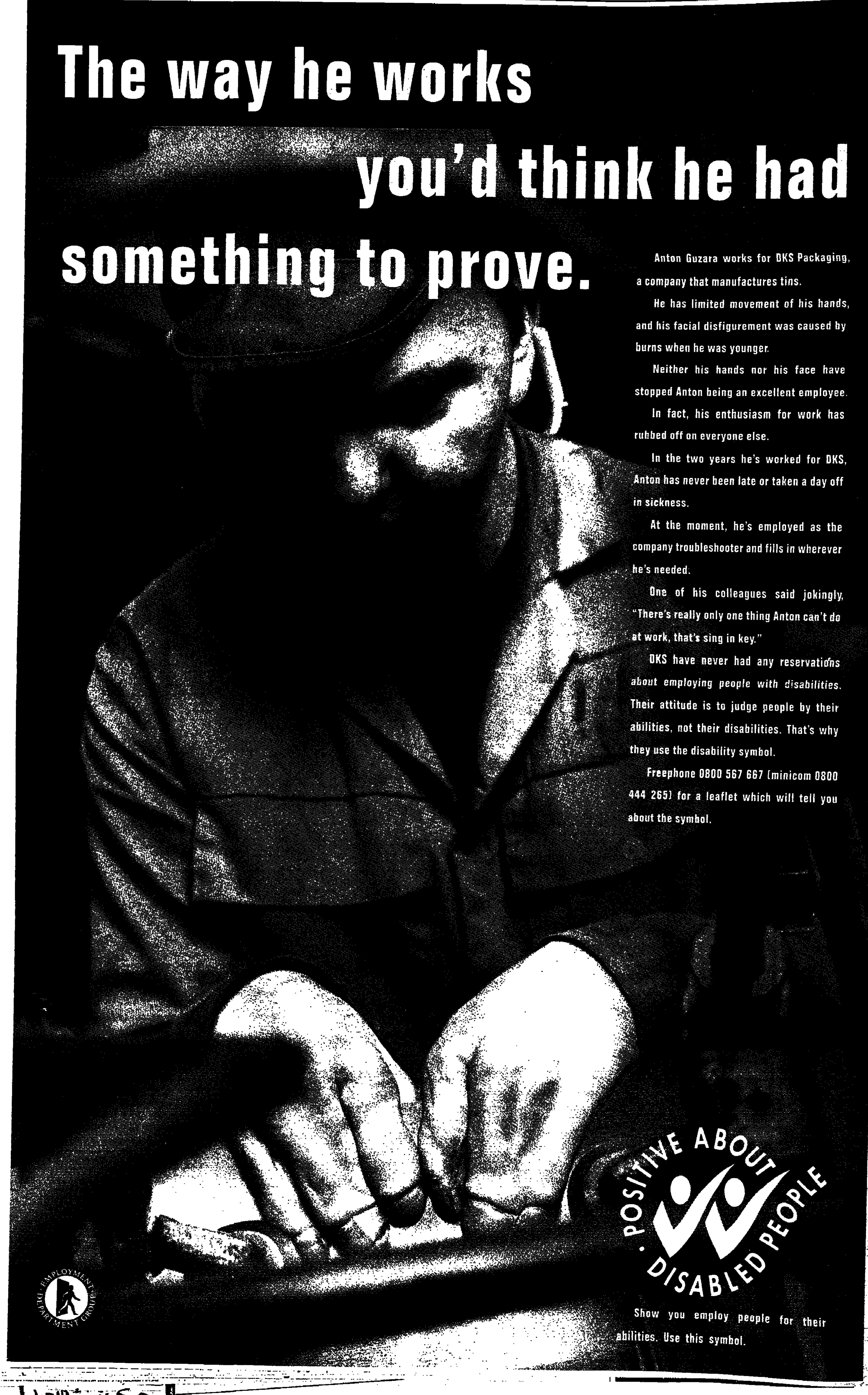

The way he works you'd think he had something to prove.

Anton Guzara works for DKS Packaging, a company that manufactures tins.

He has limited movement of his hands, and his facial disfigurement was caused by burns when he was younger.

Neither his hands nor his face have stopped Anton being an excellent employee.

In fact, his enthusiasm for work has rubbed off on everyone else.

In the two years he's worked for DKS, Anton has never been late or taken a day off in sickness.

At the moment, he's employed as the company troubleshooter and fills in wherever he's needed.

One of his colleagues said jokingly, "There's really only one thing Anton can't do at work, that's sing in key."

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هكذا من الاصل

Britons awarded walk-on parts as Gump dominates Oscars

DAN GROSHONG

Best actor and actress: Tom Hanks and Jessica Lange, plus Oscars

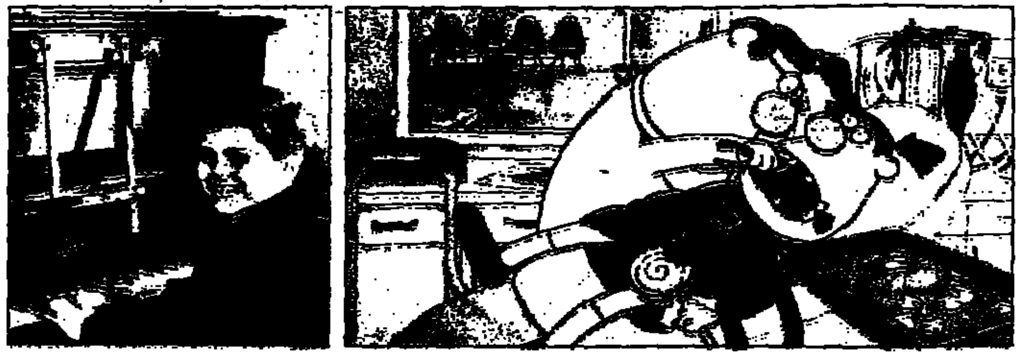
FROM GILES WHITTELL
IN LOS ANGELES

A CINEMATIC contest that divided America into "Gumpers" and *Pulp Fiction* fans ended in a triumph for *Forrest Gump* and left disappointed British nominees clutching four of the minor Oscars at the 67th Academy Awards in Los Angeles.

Instead of recipients, the big guns of British cinema featured as presenters and gracious losers as Tom Hanks became the first actor since Spencer Tracy in 1938 to win a second consecutive best actor award.

For Britain, Elton John and Sir Tim Rice took the best original song award for *Can You Feel The Love Tonight?* from *The Lion King*; *The Madness Of King George* won in the art direction category; and there were Oscars for British pairs in the two short film categories, best animation (*Bob's Birthday*) and best live action (*Franz Kafka's It's A Wonderful Life*).

Elton John, 48, who performed at the ceremony, dedicated his Oscar to his grandmother Ivy, who died last week. He told the audience, which included stars such as Jack Nicholson, Paul Newman, Jodie Foster and John Travolta: "She was the one who sat me down at the piano at the age of three and made me play, so I'm accepting this in her honour." His parents accompanied him to the ceremony on Monday night, televised to an estimated one billion viewers.



Elton John made an early start to his career. Another British winner was *Bob's Birthday*

Forrest Gump, with 13 nominations, took best film, best director (Robert Zemeckis) and best actor with a predictability that sapped the 3½-hour ceremony of real suspense.

Gump also won Oscars for its celebrated visual effects, which include computer-aided "meetings" between Hanks and three American presidents, and for best adapted screenplay — a category in which Alan Bennett was nominated for adapting his own stage play, *The Madness Of George III*.

Nigel Hawthorne was "not disappointed" at failing to win the award for his performance as King George. On his way into a post-Oscar cocktail party in Beverly Hills he said: "When you have a nomination there are no losers. It was quite clear that the awards weren't going our way."

Helen Mirren, who plays "Mrs King" opposite Hawthorne, was thwarted in the best supporting actress stakes by Dianne Wiest (*Bullets Over Broadway*). Miranda Richardson was beaten in the best actress category by Jessica Lange, a favourite among American critics for her role as a depressed but seductive military wife in *Blue Sky*, a film completed four years ago then stored in a New York bank vault because of Orion Pictures' bankruptcy.

Britons who featured as presenters included Sir Anthony Hopkins, Jeremy Irons and Hugh Grant, who mocked his own failure to be nominated for an acting award for his part in *Four Weddings and a Funeral*.

Although nominated seven times, the violent and mould-breaking *Pulp Fiction* won only one award for its writer and director, Quentin Tarantino, who shared best original screenplay with co-writer Roger Avary.

The closest thing to an upset came in the foreign language category in which the Oscar went to Russia's *Burnt By The Sun* rather than Taiwan's sex comedy *Eat Drink Man Woman*. It is only the third time a Russian film has won the award. The previous winners were Sergei Bondarchuk's epic version of *War And Peace* and the inappropriately named, abundantly lachrymose *Moscow Does Not Believe In Tears* in 1980.

Margot Norman, page 13
Alan Coren and Diary, page 14
Media, page 31

Animated success continues

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN's reputation as a world leader in film animation was confirmed on Monday night when *Bob's Birthday*, a cartoon about a dentist going through a mid-life crisis, took the Oscar for best animation. It is the fourth time in five years that the award has gone to a British animator.

Alison Snowdon, 36, from Nottingham, who wrote and produced *Bob's Birthday* for Channel 4 with her Canadian husband David Fine, said she hoped her success would give the British animation industry a further boost. "I am a product of everything that happens in the British industry, from the film schools to Channel 4 and the BBC, which provide opportunities and financing for animators to make adventurous programming," she said.

The cartoon, about a surprise 40th birthday party, features the voices of the comic Harry Enfield and Andy Hamilton, a writer on Channel 4's comedy *Drop the Dead Donkey*.

Women win right to join top rugby committee

BY JOHN GOODBODY AND MARIANNE CURPHEY

THE English Rugby Football Union has unanimously decided that women can become full members of its national committee. The landmark ruling came after Beverley Davis, a woman rugby official, took the RFU to court alleging sex discrimination.

She claimed her ambition to be the first woman on the general committee had been blocked because the RFU's regulations implied that women were not eligible to sit as full members.

A judge at Brentford County Court decided Mrs Davis had a case and granted an injunction preventing the RFU from hindering her from standing for election as Cornwall representative on the RFU committee or from taking her seat on the 56-strong committee if elected.

Yesterday Mrs Davis, 35, a dentist and secretary of Helston RFU, said she was glad she had gone to court and forced the RFU to clarify its rules. "Without the court case the RFU would have gone on in their old way, avoiding the issue. I forced them to make a decision on the issue and I am very pleased to be able to seek election on the same grounds as other candidates when voting takes place." Mrs Davis, of Helston, said she would continue her election campaign "in a low-key way".

Davis: rugby club official for 11 years

She was supported in the legal action by the Equal Opportunities Commission. Hilary Slater, the commission's principal legal officer, said: "Women, if elected, will now be able to play a full part on the game's governing body. The RFU has recognised that they can make a valuable contribution to the administration of the game at national as well as local level.

Dudley Wood, the RFU secretary, said a committee meeting on March 24 had unanimously resolved that its rules did not bar Mrs Davis from standing for election. He emphasised that it had never been the RFU's intention to hinder Mrs Davis but said that the interpretation of the rules had required clarification.

Mrs Davis, a member of the Helston committee for 11 years, wants to succeed Bill Bishop as Cornwall's representative when he vacates the post to become RFU president in July. She took legal action last month because she was concerned that she would receive fewer votes than the six male candidates in the election because of doubts about her eligibility.

Cornwall RFU had believed that she was ineligible because a national regulation states that "the qualifications, which govern the Union's selection for England teams, [that they are male] shall apply to all persons nominated for constituent body representatives on the committee". The county will fix a date for the election on Monday.

French squad, page 36

Unfunny Oldie cleared of sexism

BY JOE JOSEPH

RICHARD INGRAMS, the former Editor of *Private Eye* and current helmsman of *The Oldie*, was cleared by an industrial tribunal yesterday of sexism and unfair dismissal. However, the tribunal found his sense of humour wildly unamusing.

It disallowed claims by Laura Andru's, 31, *The Oldie*'s former advertising sales manager, that she had been dismissed unfairly when the magazine folded last July and had faced sexual discrimination in not being rehired when it was relaunched with a largely male staff. However, it branded Mr Ingrams insensitive and irresponsible for issuing a press release after the dismissal of five female staff in which he said: "*The Oldie*'s sexist staff policy is completely intentional."

Colin Challenger, for *The Oldie*, said that the release had been satirical and that, while it may have shown bad taste or been "just a very bad joke", it was not a reflection of staffing policy. Michael Rabin, the tribunal chairman, said: "We deprecate the language and attitudes implicit in the release."

Miss Andru's said that Mr Ingrams had added insult to injury when he allegedly said in *The Sunday Times* that "all women should be exterminated from the face of the earth". She said the result was "no big surprise. Basically it was me against the big boys. I still think that Richard Ingrams runs a sexist policy at *The Oldie*."

Man
will never
conquer
space.

Reformers seek easing of rules in trauma cases

By Frances Gibb, legal correspondent

REFORMS to help people such as the relatives in the Hillsborough disaster to claim damages for psychological trauma are called for by the Law Commission today.

The commission proposes that claimants should no longer have to be close in time and space to the disaster, nor to have witnessed it physically; they could have viewed it on television. But limits must be drawn to prevent "the floodgates of litigation" being opened, the Government's law reform body says in a consultation paper.

The proposals coincide with a test claim by police officers who say they were traumatised by the Hillsborough disaster. Twenty-three officers are claiming up to £250,000 each, even though those who lost relatives in the tragedy have had claims rejected by the House of Lords. There are fears that, if the officers win, the judgment could pave the way to claims from more members of the emergency services and armed forces.

At present there are strict tests on who should qualify for damages for post-traumatic stress disorder as a result of the death or injury of another person. The criteria were set down by a Lords ruling on the Hillsborough cases, which held that to recover damages the claimant must have a close tie of love and affection to the person killed or injured, or be a rescuer, be close to the accident in time and space, and perceive the accident through "unaided senses" — that is, not on television or radio.

Because of those tests, all but one of the relatives failed in their claims. In their paper today, the Law Commission says the tests are too restrictive. It recommends removing the requirements of physical and temporal proximity and also the need to perceive the accident directly through "unaided senses".

The commission says: "For the law to distinguish the claims for shock-induced psychiatric illness of one mother present at the scene of her son's death or at its immediate aftermath, from that of another mother who was not present but came across the aftermath several hours later or who heard about the accident from a friend or saw it on television, might justly give rise to accusations of arbitrary and insensitive line-drawing."

But the commission says there do need to be some limits. Professor Andrew Burrows, commissioner in charge of the consultation paper, said that although the commission believed it "important to retain special limits on liability for psychiatric illness, our provisional view is that some of the existing limits are arbitrary and unjust and should be removed by legislation".

The paper seeks views on whether firemen and policemen should be precluded from recovering damages for psychiatric illness suffered in the course of their work, as well as whether there should be liability on newsapapers and broadcasters who cause such illness by negligently communicating false news.

☐ *Liability for psychiatric illness: A Consultation Paper* (Law Commission Consultation Paper No 137, Stationery Office: £13.95)

CHRIS HARRIS

Dave Courtney: "To me, this is the best job I have ever had to do"

Minder and the Bill watch over Ronnie Kray

By Alan Hamilton

THEY are already talking in the East End of a funeral fit for a king. Associates of Ronnie Kray predict the biggest turnout today since they laid Sir Winston Churchill to rest.

Kray died almost two weeks ago, aged 61, while serving a 30-year sentence in Broadmoor for the murder of George Cornell. He is expected to draw a crowd of thousands on the streets of Bethnal Green to watch the cortege, led by a horse-drawn hearse and followed by 21 black Daimlers, wind its way to St Matthew's Church and then to the family grave at Chingford.

One of the most notorious and glamorised of the old-style villains, who reigned before drugging and mugging gave crime a bad name, he has lain in state like Lenin for the past week in an open oak coffin at English's funeral parlour in Bethnal Green Road, half a mile from Vallance Road where Vi Kray brought up her sons Ronnie, Reggie and Charlie. The funeral parlour is next to a police station. Even in death, the Bill are watching him.

Sixty heavies have been guarding the corpse round the clock, admitting only bona-fide family and friends and discouraging the casually nosy. Dave Courtney, chief bodyguard and occasional television actor, declined to admit *The Times*. The shaven head, stubbly chin and fistful of gold rings each the size of a clawhammer indicated that press rights of access might not be the most fruitful line of argument.

Mr Courtney was, however, willing to vouchsafe his views. "I see it very much as an honour. For a criminal, losing someone like Ronnie or Reggie Kray is like losing the monarch. To me, Ronnie is now lying in state. I have looked after princes and actors, but to me this is the best job I have ever had to do. That's why I'm doing it for nothing."

Mr Courtney said that he had discussed funeral arrangements and crowd control with the Kray family and senior police officers. "Lots of mourners will be from the other side of the fence, so to speak, and they won't want to be ushered around by a lot of uniformed policemen."

He described his charge lying within: "He looks well. He looks awesome, in a way. He is dressed in a crisp white shirt and black tie, without his glasses." When not organising a guard of dishonour for a dead villain, Mr Courtney, who served four years for attempted murder, is engaged in "bread-and-butter scummy work such as evicting squatters, debt collecting, repossession of cars, and offering a 'rent-a-clump' service".

Ronnie Kray: through the manor borne

The chief mourner will be handcuffed to a prison officer. Ronnie's twin brother Reggie, serving 30 years in Maidstone for the murder of Jack "The Hat" McVitie, will be allowed out for the day to join a show of last respects to a criminally insane, homosexual, chain-smoking folk hero.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Car death remands

A man of 23 was remanded in custody yesterday, accused of killing Nicola Phillips, 19, daughter of the captain of *HMS Endurance*, in a crash involving a stolen car. Daniel Norris appeared before Portsmouth magistrates with Mark Smith, also 23, who was remanded in custody on burglary and motoring charges.

Hospital delay

Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Trust has paid an £850 private treatment bill after telling a four-year-old girl's parents that her broken wrist could not be set until the next day.

Thirsty work

Customers have been offered a free pint of beer if they inform staff about under-age drinkers in the bar of the Rising Sun public house in Wimborne Minster, Dorset.

Girl saves family

Danielle Auty, four, rescued her brother from their blazing bedroom and then alerted her parents using fire drill she had learnt at her school in Bridlington a fortnight before.

£121,000 VC

A Victoria Cross awarded to Lieutenant Colonel Geoffrey Keyes, 24, who died trying to capture Rommel in 1941, sold for £121,000 to a private British bidder at a Spink auction.

Pickwick hotel

The Great White Horse Hotel at Ipswich, made famous by Charles Dickens in *The Pickwick Papers*, is for sale with seven other group properties for a total of £4 million.

Heart warning

Men who have trouble sleeping are twice as likely to develop heart disease, according to Californian researchers who believe that insomnia is an indicator of high stress.

THE TIMES/DILLONS LECTURE

Landscape & Memory: an evening with Simon Schama

SIMON SCHAMA, right, author of the award-winning *Citizens* and one of the most imaginative and exciting historians writing today, will talk about his latest book *Landscape & Memory* at *The Times*/Dillons lecture on Tuesday, April 11. *Landscape & Memory* is a thought-provoking and ground-breaking study of the interflow of ideas between culture and landscape. Schama, described as "the Mozart of history", will show how our environment is affected by the way we think. A five-part television series, based on the book, will be shown on BBC2 in late April. The lecture, chaired by Matthew d'Ancona of *The Times*, will be held at the London School of Economics, Houghton Street, London, WC2, at 7.30pm on April 11. Tickets at £10 (concessions £7.50), which include £5 off the price of the book, are available by ringing 0171-915 6612, by faxing the coupon below to 0171-580 7680, or by sending it with your remittance to Dillons the Bookstore, 82 Gower Street, London, WC1, where tickets can also be purchased.

THE TIMES

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Community awards mark decade of good neighbours

By John Young

THE tenth annual Community Enterprise awards, sponsored by *The Times* and Touche Ross and organised by Business in the Community, are launched today. Past awards have provided an incentive for thousands of projects in which local people work together to benefit their communities.

Last year the number of entrants almost doubled from 387 to 762 and this year it could well exceed 1,000. Past winning projects have ranged from village youth centres to providing premises for workshops and small businesses in rundown inner-city districts.

Expenditure has ranged from a few thousand pounds to several million, with many larger projects attracting substantial support from commerce and industry. Each year an overall winner is selected for the Charles Douglas-Home award, named after the late editor of *The Times*.

The winner of the first award in 1986 exemplifies the far-reaching effects that can flow from the humblest beginning. When Paddy Doherty set up the Derry Inner City Trust in 1981 with a handful of small grants and loans, he was derided for attempting to restore a city suffering almost daily destruction from terrorist violence. Since then the trust has spent more than £15 million on restoration and conservation and will shortly open a £4.5 million heritage centre.

The awards, which have enjoyed support from the Prince of Wales as patron and latterly as chairman, are worth £20,000 and are divided into six categories:

- **☐ The Chartwell Land/Housing Associations Charitable Trust Award for helping the badly housed and homeless**
- **☐ The Community Enterprise Award for new or refurbished buildings supplying social, educational and recreational needs**
- **☐ The Marks & Spencer Award for community services, including social and health care and crime reduction**
- **☐ *The Times* Award for improvements to the local environment**
- **☐ The United Biscuits Award for business development and training**
- **☐ The Touche Ross Award for projects initiated and developed by young people.**

Projects completed between January 1, 1992, and June 16, 1995, are eligible. Details and entry forms can be obtained from The Community Enterprise Awards, Business in the Community, 8 Stratton Street, London W1X 6AH (0171 629 1600). The closing date is June 16.

Tourists pay for release of lions

By Marianne Curphey

TWO lions kept in cages on the roof of a disused bar on a Spanish tourist island are to be flown to an animal sanctuary in Kent after British holidaymakers helped to raise £58,000 for their release.

Visitors to Playa de Las Américas, Tenerife, were upset by the conditions in which the five-year-old lions and a leopard lived, apparently locked in 7ft by 9ft cages and fed live dogs and stagnant water. Guests at a hotel near by said the cages were strewn with excrement and rubbish and they could hear the animals' screams at night.

The Born Free Foundation, based in Dorking, Surrey, was making final arrangements today to fly the lions to Britain. They cannot be released into the wild because they have spent so long in captivity. The leopard is likely to go to Namibia where it will be cared for by Africat, an African charity.

The Born Free Foundation, established by the actress Virgina McKenna, has arranged for the animals to be cared for in Loro Parque Zoo, Tenerife, until their flight.

Scientists working for the Zoological Society of London yesterday set free 45 sand gazelles in Saudi Arabia after an eight-year breeding programme. The gazelles, virtually extinct in the wild, were among 800 kept at the King Khaled Wildlife Research Centre near Riyadh.

Leading article, page 15

Polar bears go hungry as Arctic ice retreats

By Nick Nuttall, environment correspondent

POLAR bears on the edge of the Arctic are rapidly losing weight as rising temperatures make it harder for them to hunt their favourite food, ringed seals. Scientists studying their lifestyle fear that some populations are being pushed to their limits.

The ice on which the bears hunt is freezing in late November or December, more than a month later than previously, and melting earlier, forcing the animals back on to land where there is little or no food for them. They are having to hibernate for longer, which is further depleting the bears' vital fat reserves.

Dr Ian Stirling of the Canadian Wildlife Service in Edmonton, Alberta, told an international gathering of Arctic scientists organised by the British Ecological Society at Aberdeen University: "The length of time the ice stays on the water increases or decreases the amount of seals they catch as they do not catch much in open water."

Polar bears hunt by lying quietly next to breathing holes made in the ice by the seals and grabbing them as they surface for air. The bears also catch seals and seal pups hiding under snowdrifts by jumping on them after they have sniffed them out.

Dr Stirling said that, since 1980, the fat levels on female polar bears had been steadily going down when they came ashore by about 15 per cent. During the same period, the survival rate of cubs had fallen from 75 per cent to 50 per cent.

Dr Stirling, who has been studying the population of polar bears around Hudson Bay in northeastern Canada, said there was a critical weight below which females could not bring up cubs. "I believe they are now fairly close to their limit."

Delegates at the two-day conference are discussing the impacts of climate change and the delicate balance of life that exists at the edge of the world. At the same time, representatives of more than 100 nations are meeting in Berlin to discuss how to cut industrial emissions further to head off global warming.

☐ Plants able to kill small mammals such as lemmings or voles have been pinpointed by scientists on the edge of the Arctic. The grass-like sedges make chemicals that cause malnutrition and death to herbivores if they become overgrazed.

Professor Goran Hogstedt of the University of Bergen, Norway, said yesterday in Aberdeen that the plants' action was the key to the dramatic decline in small rodents and other vegetarian animals in the region.

FRANCOIS GOHIER/ARDEA

Polar bears can effectively shut down their kidneys

Kidney treatment clue

SCIENTISTS are studying polar bears in an attempt to improve the treatment of kidney patients, after discovering that the bears can operate without their kidneys for long periods.

Dr Ian Stirling, of the Canadian Wildlife Service, said yesterday: "One of the most fascinating things about polar bears is that they can regulate all their bodily wastes and make water at the same time." He and scientists at the Univerity of Illinois suspect that a hormone made by the bears could be responsible.

They hope their findings will help patients who have to spend a long and painful time in dialysis. Further studies of polar bears may also aid the treatment of obesity and anorexia.

End of book subsidy undermines great tradition

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

The Prime Minister's intention, which he will reiterate today at a conference sponsored by the Foreign Office and the Royal Institute of International Affairs, is to promote British goods and services overseas. His audience will include, as well as the Prince of Wales and the Foreign Secretary, hundreds of business leaders and politicians. It is reported that Mr Major will tell them that universality of the English language and British culture could be exploited to greater effect.

Mr Major's ideals contrast with the decision announced on March 9 by Baroness Chalker of Wallasey, the Foreign Office Minister, to withdraw the small subsidy paid by the Overseas Development Administration which enables British scientific, medical and other textbooks to be exported to students in the poorest countries of the world at low prices.

British publishers support the organisation called the English Language Book Scheme, which distributes textbooks particularly to the Indian sub-continent, Africa and the less developed parts of the Far and Middle East. The publishers, as their contribution to the scheme, forgo the greater part of their profit: the Government contributes £1.5 million a year, including £250,000 for administration costs.

Last year more than 450 titles were sold at a third of their price in Britain. The scheme is welcomed in the developing world where countries do not have a well-established scientific publishing industry nor as yet the university research facilities needed to support one. It is aid that encourages countries to develop their own resources, but at the same time its influence on the people who will become the scientific leaders in their countries must be to the long-term benefit of British interests as it enhances our prestige in countries that still have links with us through a shared language.

The British pharmaceutical industry is one of the strongest in the world, a strength which is in part allied to British medical education, but it is in other branches of science such as engineering and agriculture that the low-price book scheme is more likely to produce financial returns. Even so, the withdrawal of the scheme is particularly regretted by doctors.

The problems facing the health service, as well as fee increases, are already encouraging more English-speaking overseas students to seek their postgraduate education in the United States and Australia. British medical education, once considered the most desirable in the world, may have to share, or even surrender, this accolade to America.

The low-price book scheme, however, has enabled undergraduate and postgraduate students overseas to benefit from this tradition of great medical education and, as the Prime Minister would advocate, to utilise a British asset.

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Politicians and media take each other too seriously

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

Politicians have always moaned about the BBC, their complaints have seldom been justified and they have usually not gained much from their protests. Even in the infancy of the BBC, Winston Churchill tried to take it over during the General Strike of 1926 and to run it as a government propaganda agency. Winston, as one Tory diarist recorded, "was very strong in his insistence that the Government ought to assume complete possession". But he was rebuffed by Baldwin. Similar, less dramatic confrontations have occurred frequently since then, notably during the regimes of Harold Wilson and Margaret Thatcher.

The latest fracas is typical. A government in trouble feels it is being treated unfairly, as do its supporters, when its leaders face tough interviews. Partisans of all parties regard any critical questioning as evidence of bias since their leaders are always in the right. Protests are partly an expression of frustration, are partly intended to satisfy the more Neanderthal of supporters (as columns and letters over the past two days have shown), and partly to put pressure on the broadcasters.

The list of ministerial complaints sounds like whingeing. Politicians are hardly an oppressed group. Some of their points are trivial, others are ridiculous and a few partially justified. But the net effect is to force the BBC onto the defensive. One veteran campaigner of such exchanges reckons that, in the short term, the Government will not be helped, except among its own supporters. In the long term, the broadcasters do react, and in some cases overcompensate, by being hypersensitive about Tory complaints and giving the Opposition a tougher ride. But even the narrow electoral benefits are limited. Politicians and the media treat each other too seriously. Of course, television matters, but voters neither notice nor care about the points which so infuriate the politicians.

From my own experience of not only the BBC but also ITN and Sky, charges of party bias are misplaced, though broadcasters are, like everyone else, affected by the mood of the time. Interviewers such as John Humphrys, James Naughtie and Jeremy Paxman are journalists first, last and always. Their styles are not always to the taste of those being interviewed but that does not alter their impartiality.

The real question is about how the political agenda is set. The Westminster focus of coverage works against the Government by highlighting unimportant tactical manoeuvres, threatened revolts (which usually fizzle out) and Opposition claims (the point of Michael Howard's protest yesterday about the use of crime figures on *Today*). It is inherently more difficult for ministers since they have actions and records to defend, while opposition parties can only criticise and propose. Labour is still st the stage of talking about general themes which are harder to analyse. Tony Blair and his colleagues will have a much harder time later in the year when the party starts to produce more detailed proposals.

A more subtle argument has been put forward by Douglas Hurd. He does not believe there is bias against any particular government, but rather there is a bias against achievement, against people who are trying to do things and in favour of criticism. Mr Hurd has a point in his mandarin way, even though the role of the media is, and has always been, to be the grit in the public debate, to challenge and question the powers that be.

The problem now, as Mr Hurd has also argued, is the influence of pressure and lobbying groups. Their demands too often go unchallenged and are treated as legitimate because the group they claim to represent appears worthy. British politics used to be dominated by producer interests. Now, it is the politics of rights and entitlements. If there is a bias in coverage it is in this direction rather than in favour of one party or another.

PETER RIDDELL

Promise of better access to buses, coaches and trains

Ministers make U-turn on help for the disabled

By Alice Thomson, Political Reporter

THE Government announced a series of U-turns on the disability Bill last night, including a move to ensure greater access of public transport to the disabled.

Bowing to cross-party pressure in the Commons, William Hague, the Minister for the Disabled, announced that the Government was ready to legislate to improve access to coaches, buses, and trains.

As Tory backbench MPs queued up to complain in the report stage debate of the Disability Discrimination Bill, Mr Hague astonished them with a package of changes. The Bill will now also help healthy people who have a history of substantial disability. "This will be of benefit particularly to people who have recovered completely from a mental illness but who find their job prospects blighted by groundless fears of a relapse," Mr Hague said.

The Government also said that it would act to help students with disabilities and learning difficulties to gain access to schools and colleges. It would look at raising awareness of their needs and providing colleges with incentives to enrol more of them. "The embodiment of these powers in legislation through this Bill will represent another major step in demonstrating that the Government's policies for tackling discrimination are comprehensive," Mr Hague said.

The major concessions come in the wake of bitter acrimony over disabled rights in the Commons in recent years. The Government hopes that they will go some way to appeasing six million disabled people and the vocal pressure groups that have lobbied Downing Street in protest at what they saw as obstruction of anti-discrimination moves.

Mr Hague's announcement came just after Sir John Hannam (C, Exeter) told the House that the exclusion of public transport vehicles increased disabled people's "sense of isolation and separation".

Tom Clarke, for Labour, said that it was "patently absurd" to improve access to railway and bus stations but deny disabled people their right to catch a train or bus. He said that disabled people felt trapped and he urged ministers to offer them a "passport to travel" through properly adapted vehicles.

Mr Hague said he could not accept cross-party amendments to the Bill aimed at improving access to public transport but he accepted the spirit of their demands. Government changes would be brought about after discussions with transport operators and in a timescale yet to be set. But it was in no one's interest to bring forward measures that would jeopardise the viability of public transport operators. "For systems like the London Underground, for example, we are certainly talking very long term," he said.

Dr Roger Berry (Lab, Kingswood), whose backbench civil rights Bill was wrecked by ministers, told Mr Hague: "I hope you will recognise that a number of MPs and many people outside have been arguing for precisely this for a considerable period of time."

Liz Lynne (Lib Dem, Rochdale) voiced concern that people with HIV, the virus that can lead to aids, were not provided for in the Bill. She said that increased use of testing could lead to discrimination. Similarly, a test that showed susceptibility to Alzheimer's disease could lead to employment difficulties.

The Bill makes it unlawful to discriminate in connection with employment and provision of goods, facilities and services, and sets up a National Disability Council to advise ministers. But the Opposition still want broader measures including a Disability Rights Commission with power to vigorously enforce anti-discrimination laws.

Lib Dems ponder link with Labour

By Arthur Leathley, Political Correspondent

A LIBERAL Democrat MP's call for electoral co-operation with other parties in creating "Tory-free zones" has spiced up the debate about possible links with Labour.

Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, is urging senior colleagues to draw up plans on how they might work with Labour if it wins the next general election. But pressure for a declaration of support for Labour has increased after Alex Carlile, leader of the Welsh Liberal Democrats, called for opposition election candidates to fight with the common purpose of driving the Tories out.

Mr Ashdown says that the Liberal Democrats will make clear before the election how closely they will work with Labour but denies that the party is abandoning its equidistance between Labour and the Tories.

He indicated yesterday that he would not commit his party to links with Labour until Tony Blair spelt out more detailed policies. "I have made it clear to colleagues that this is an issue which we will have to have a clear answer to, but we can't until we have a clear answer about where the other parties stand," he said. "You can't define your position in relation to a vacuum."

Close colleagues say that he might tell party activists in September that he is prepared to pledge support for Labour in the event of a hung Parliament. But this could depend on a Labour commitment to electoral reform.

Mr Carlile outlined his plan in a speech at the weekend. He told Liberal Democrat activists that an agreement with other parties could ensure that the five Tories in Wales lost their seats.

Although he ruled out a pact specifically with Labour as "unrealistic" his comments have been supported by other senior MPs who are pressing Mr Ashdown to make the party's stance clear well before an election. Mr Carlile's plan for Wales could also apply to Scotland, where the Tories' low poll rating has raised hopes that they might lose almost all their ten seats.

Liberal Democrats who favour closer links with Labour also pointed yesterday to the South West, Manchester and inner London as areas where Tory MPs could be wiped out by tactical voting.

IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY in the Commons: questions to defence ministers and the Prime Minister were followed by a debate on the remaining stages of the Disability Discrimination Bill. In the Lords: debates on Health Authorities Bill, Railtrack (Rateable Values) (Scotland) Order, and the Electricity Supply Industry (Rateable Values) (Amendment) Order.

TODAY in the Commons: From 10am, backbench debates on domestic violence, the future of Guy's Hospital, the West Coast main line and climate change. From 2.30pm, questions to Foreign Office ministers and a Labour debate on "the impact of education cuts on standards and opportunity". In the Lords: debates on the economy and on the Human Rights Bill.

Everything that flies is lighter than air.

Brussels modifies stance and rejects imposition of trade sanctions against Ottawa

Canada displays 'illegal' nets from Spanish trawler

BY JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK, EDWARD OWEN IN MADRID AND MICHAEL HORNSBY

CANADA presented nets from a seized Spanish trawler yesterday as proof that Spanish fishermen, with backing from the European Union, were using illegal equipment to catch underage fish off Newfoundland.

Two nets from the *Estai*, the Spanish vessel whose seizure in international waters on March 9 touched off the current "fish war", were put on display to the press on a barge in the river in front of the New York headquarters of the United Nations.

Canadian fisheries officers, who are holding the nets as court evidence against the *Estai*, alleged that the mesh was much smaller than the 130mm (5¼ ins) limit set by the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (Nafo).

Thrusting a Nafo-approved device through the holes, the officers demonstrated that the main net has a mesh of 4in and that an illegal second net, or "liner", found inside the main net measured just 3in.

The clear evidence of illegal fishing practices must throw continued EU support for Spanish fishermen into doubt.

Canada has accused Spain of plundering the Greenland halibut stocks that cross in and out of Canada's 200-mile limit and has placed a moratorium on halibut fishing in its own waters.

Displaying the nets, Brian Tobin, the Canadian Fisheries Minister, said: "There ought not to be a liner. A liner is strictly prohibited. There ought not to be a second net at all."

A "liner" is placed inside the toe, or "cod end", of the main net to stop fish escaping.

Canadian officials provided journalists with samples of juvenile Greenland halibut recovered from the vessel and a banned catch of American plaice they said had been found in a secret hold.

In Brussels, meanwhile, Britain shifted to a more neutral position in the dispute, making clear that it would not support the use of trade sanctions against Canada, which Spain has asked for.

In the Commons, William Waldegrave, the Agriculture Minister, confirmed the shift in the British position, saying the Government had a great deal of sympathy for Canada, but he also warned Ottawa not to spoil a good case by resorting to misguided tactics.

Mr Waldegrave urged all sides to "cool the rhetoric". He said: "We have a very great deal of sympathy with the Canadians. We and other nations know there are questions about Spanish obedience to the rules. But cutting nets off big trawlers is dangerous and it is illegal."

The Canadian Navy can muster six Halifax-class frigates which carry British-built Sea King helicopters and are able to fire American Harpoon and British Sea Sparrow surface-to-surface missiles.

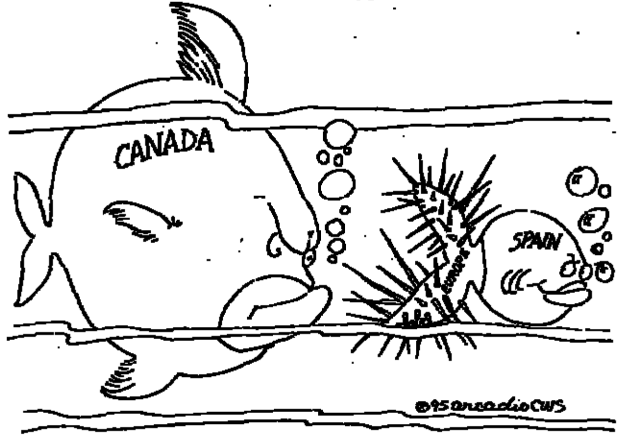
Mr Waldegrave added that the Government hoped to be able to use its unique position as a member of the EU and the Commonwealth to "broker a resolution".

Javier Solana, the Spanish Foreign Minister, said Spain "will not tolerate another seizure". Yesterday all government exchanges with Canada were suspended and visas reintroduced for Canadian citizens wishing to visit Spain.

In The Hague, Spain filed a case against Canada in the International Court of Justice but gave no details. The court is the only international legal arena for deciding disputes between states, but cases proceed slowly and judgments usually take years.

Matthew Parris, page 2

CARTOONISTS AND WRITERS SYNDICATE



The fishing dispute between Canada and Spain as seen by Arcadio in the Costa Rican paper *La Nación*

A net cutter, which can be towed across the cables connecting nets to trawlers, lies ready on the deck of a Canadian Coast Guard vessel

Feuds multiply as boats vie for share of depleted stocks

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

THE fishing feud between the European Union and Canada over Greenland halibut is part of a wider global conflict in which increasing numbers of ever-more efficient boats are chasing fewer fish.

Over the past two years, British and French nets have been slashed by Spanish fisherman in the Bay of Biscay, Japanese fishermen have been shot at by a Russian gunboat, an Icelandic trawler and Norwegian coastguard vessels have exchanged gunfire, and Indonesia has impounded Taiwanese vessels.

A report this month by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation for an international fishing conference in Rome estimated that 70 per cent of the world's marine stocks were "fully to heavily exploited, over-exploited, depleted or slowly recovering".

Under the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, coastal states were allowed to push the boundaries of their national waters out from 12 miles to 200 miles offshore. Three-quarters of the world's fish now lie within these national waters.

The skirmishing off Newfoundland is a particularly acute example of a problem involving fish which either migrate from one national zone to another or between a national zone and the adjacent seas.

British disdainful of disputed halibut

BY MICHAEL HORSNELL

GREENLAND halibut is scarcely more common on the fishmonger's slab in Britain than fillet of leviathan and, according to the most refined palate, hardly any tastier unless spread with mustard.

The fish at the centre of the dispute between Spanish and Canadian fishermen is better known in Britain as mock halibut as it is not the same expensive species known and loved on this side of the Atlantic. Last year British fishermen caught a mere 597 tonnes worth £930,874 from total landings of 154,562 tonnes valued at £149,212,569.

On rare occasions Greenland halibut can be found in the shops at about £2.50 per lb, compared to up to £10 per lb for best Scottish halibut steaks. Stephen Hatt, a fishmonger in Islington, north London, said: "We don't stock it and I have never been asked to get any in. It's not regarded over here as one of the top quality lines of fish and that's why the term 'mock' is used. It's inferior in flavour and texture."

Gucci investigators link shooting to debt repayments

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

MILAN police sought yesterday to unravel the murky financial affairs of Maurizio Gucci, shot dead in an ambush. Investigators believe that Monday's murder may have been linked to irregularities surrounding repayment of debts Signor Gucci contracted using shares in the fashion empire as collateral.

Police said they would travel to Switzerland to examine bank accounts held by Signor Gucci, who lived in St Moritz. State-run Italian television said investigators believe he obtained up to $400 million (£258 million) for selling his Gucci shares in September 1993 to the Arab investment bank Investcorp, but that he had only declared $200 million.

Signor Gucci reportedly sold his shareholding after raising 30 million Swiss francs (about £12 million) to pay off debts to Citibank and Crédit Suisse he ran up using the shares as security. Asked at the time where he obtained the Swiss francs, Signor Gucci joked: "I found them under the floor of my home in St Moritz." Police sources speculate that non-repayment of debts may have made the Gucci scion dangerous enemies, while the *Il Messaggero* newspaper suggested that his death could be linked to the lucrative global trade in counterfeiting Gucci products.

Police yesterday issued an identikit picture of the hitman, an elegantly dressed, heavily built man in his forties who shot Signor Gucci outside the office of his Milanese consultancy firm. Officers based the impression on descriptions given by a woman passer-by and by Giuseppe Onorato, 51, the porter at Signor Gucci's office building, who was shot and wounded while trying to tackle the gunman.

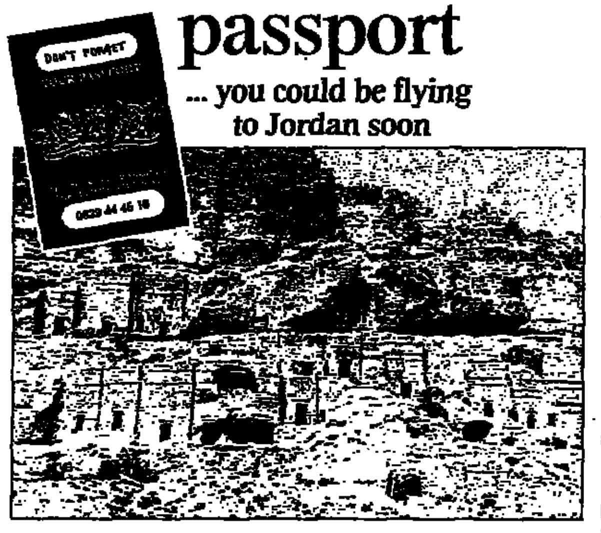
Signor Gucci evidently was not in fear of his life as he had walked from his Milan flat to the office unaccompanied. Only 18 months ago he felt it necessary to travel everywhere with three bodyguards as negotiations for him to cede his stake in the Gucci empire reached fever pitch.

According to the *Corriere della Sera* of Milan, Signor Gucci had decided to stay outside the fashion world, turning his back on the feuds that destroyed the Gucci clan, and planned to invest in hotels, casinos and possibly a golf course.

Police said they were considering all possible motives. Signor Gucci was divorced from his wife Patrizia, by whom he had two daughters. "I am sorry from a human point of view, but personally I can't say the same thing," she commented on learning of his death. He had moved in with his new companion, Paola Colombo. The world of Milan fashion has been the focus of inquiries by the authorities over the past year. In September, Giorgio Armani and Gianfranco Ferre admitted paying bribes to tax inspectors. Investigators believe these were only the tip of an iceberg of corruption and money laundering by Milan fashion firms.

☐ **Ex-ministers held:** Vito Lattanzio and Rino Formica, both former ministers, and tax police officials, a mayor, a former magistrate and Mafia suspects, were among 35 people arrested in an anti-corruption inquiry in southern Italy, police said. *(Reuter)*

Gucci: sold his shares



THE TIMES
Don't forget your passport
... you could be flying to Jordan soon

Wonders of a lost age: ancient cave dwellings in Jordan

ENTER today's Don't Forget Your Passport competition and you could be taking off soon for a Middle East adventure.

A six-day journey will take our winner to Petra, which was carved out of pink sandstone 2,000 years ago by the Nabataean Arabs.

Then the group will visit the ancient city of Jerash and see Mount Nebo, where Moses gazed upon the Promised Land, and ride across the desert landscape of Wadi Rum.

Even if you do not win, Cox & Kings will take you to Jordan for as little as £855 with single supplements from £195. Prices include scheduled flights, four-star twinshare accommodation, sightseeing and half board. For more details, ring Cox & Kings on 0171 873 5005.

HOW TO ENTER

The winner of yesterday's Istanbul break was Mr John Montague from Caversham, Berkshire, who is retired.

For a chance to win the Jordan holiday for two, ring

0839 44 45 16

before 3pm with the answers to the following questions. We will contact you later today if you are the winner.

1) From where did Moses view the Promised Land?
2) What is the capital city of Jordan?

The winner will be drawn from all correct answers received by the time the lines close. Normal Times Newspapers competition rules apply. Calls cost 39p a minute cheap rate and 49p at all other times.

Cox&Kings

Tomorrow: the chance to win a short break in Rome

Satellite launched for Israel

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN PLESETSK

A CONVERTED Russian strategic missile made space history at this northern Russia launch site yesterday when it deployed civilian satellites instead of the nuclear warheads for which it was designed.

In one of the most ambitious projects in Russia's troubled efforts to convert its vast military complex to commercial use, an adapted SS25 missile carried Israeli, Mexican and Russian satellites into orbit. Russian and Israeli officials said the launch of their first joint space venture had gone off smoothly but later reported that they had yet to receive signals from the spacecraft, the Gurwin-1.

Nevertheless, Major-General Nikolai Ukhrimenko, commander of the military Cosmodrome which, for more than 30 years, was one of Russia's most sensitive and heavily defended sites, said the initiative marked an important turning point. "This is a great start to what we hope is a new beginning for our space industry," he said.

The satellite itself, due to pass over Israel every two hours and stay in orbit for three years, was developed and built in part by Jewish immigrants who were barred for years from leaving the Soviet Union. One of them, Anatoli Wolfovsky, an electrical engineer who was at the launch, said: "When I emigrated to Israel from Russia three years ago, I never thought I would be back here to see an Israeli satellite launched by a Russian missile. I am glad to say relations between the two countries have really changed."

United Nations climate conference in Berlin

Oil-producing countries agree to set aside environmental veto

BY JOHN HOLLAND IN BERLIN AND NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

THE United Nations climate conference opened in Berlin yesterday in a downbeat mood, but with one small success — an apparent agreement by oil-producing countries not to block proceedings by insisting that all decisions are taken by consensus.

More than 1,000 delegates from 130 countries have gathered, though their expectations are not high. The goal of the 11-day conference is to establish a basis for cutting the output of "global warming" gases to defer the threat of climate change.

"The peoples of the world expect us to take the decisions necessary to protect them from the harm that threatens," Angela Merkel, the German Environment Minister and elected conference president, told the opening session. "We carry responsibility not only for today's generation but also for those of the future."

Before the conference, Frau Merkel had achieved agreement with the Saudi Arabian delegation that the oil producers would set aside their insistence that voting should be by consensus, rather than majority. Consensus decision-making, often followed by UN bodies, would have given the oil producers an effective veto.

Critics claim that this first follow-up meeting to the 1992 Rio Earth Summit is untimely, poorly planned, and lacks political will from the industrialised countries, including the hosts, who produce the bulk of carbon dioxide emissions. The debate is expected to centre on two issues: whether the developed countries are prepared to set further emission targets for the period beyond 2000, and whether a formula can be found to allow the developed countries to offset some emissions by helping developing countries.

Frau Merkel said yesterday she had the impression that delegations were willing to compromise, but admitted that the voting issue had been deferred. She said she would try to broker a settlement by the weekend, but showed no enthusiasm for the suggestion that the oil producers might be given a seat on the conference board in exchange for a more conciliatory attitude.

She was uncompromising about the consequences of failure. "If we don't take action, we must expect grave and irreversible consequences; a rise in sea levels, a shift in climate and vegetation zones, and a deterioration in food production and world nutrition are only a few examples . . . if we are serious about long-term change we will not be able to avoid radical changes in our pattern of consumption and production and in our lifestyle."

Adding to the air of despair, a Norwegian study yesterday reported that an area of ice twice the size of Norway had melted in the Arctic icecap, and an alliance of 36 island states brought forward a resolution declaring that without binding cuts in carbon dioxide emissions they faced being swamped by rising sea levels. The conference is also being lobbied by industrial groups and by the Global Climate Coalition, which argues that global warming has yet to be proved and that steps to cut carbon emissions would cost billions of dollars and tens of thousands of jobs.

Christopher Flavin, an analyst from the Washington-based environmental group World Watch Institute, said: "The real story of this conference is going to be to bring to world attention that government rhetoric is far ahead of policy and that fossil fuel interests at the corporate level and in some Middle Eastern countries are really disrupting these negotiations."

Merkel: "Responsibility to future generations"

FACTFILE

THE United Nations climate conference in Berlin is the first follow-up to the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992, which produced the *Framework Convention on Climate Change* (John Holland writes).

The Berlin conference is intended to find ways of implementing the Rio treaty and considering means of strengthening it. The conference's aims include dealing with the results of rising carbon dioxide emissions, leading to the melting of polar glaciers, which threatens to cause flooding of low-lying coastal areas and islands around the world.

An alliance of 36 island countries wants to make binding a 20 per cent cut in carbon dioxide emissions by industrialised countries by 2005, and the reduction of those levels to 1990 figures by the end of the century. Resistance to these measures is likely to come from emerging economies in Asia and Latin America, which are rapidly increasing their CO_2 output.

Countries such as America, Japan and Germany either have refused any binding cuts in emissions or in Germany's case, where the Green movement is strongest, tried to water them down.

US-Korea nuclear impasse

Washington: The tortuous nuclear negotiations between America and North Korea reached a new level of melodrama yesterday with the two sides abruptly breaking off talks in Berlin two days early (Ian Brodie writes).

They failed to reach agreement on the key issue of South Korea's role in supplying North Korea with new reactors to replace existing ones that were suspected of producing plutonium for nuclear weapons.

Israeli ties

Jerusalem: Morocco has opened a liaison office in Tel Aviv, making it only the third Arab country after Egypt and Jordan to establish ties with Israel since the state was founded in 1948.

Robberies soar

New York: The rate of bank robberies in America is soaring, suggesting a new level of audacity and stupidity on the part of the average crook. FBI figures show the number has doubled to 9,000 annually.

Ballerina exits

Moscow: Nadezhda Pavlova, the principal ballerina with the Bolshoi ballet company, quit a day after the theatre's chief conductor, Aleksandr Lazarev, resigned in a row over new executives. *(Reuter)*

Hint of freedom

Rangoon: A senior Burmese official said the Government would not hold Aung San Suu Kyi, the Nobel Peace Prize laureate, under house arrest permanently and hinted she might be free by July. *(Reuter)*

Water polluted

Tunis: Algerian authorities cut off water supplies to Algiers and surrounding areas after a reservoir became contaminated with leakages of oil or gas, the official APS news agency reported. *(Reuter)*

Job grapevine

Toulouse: Wine growers are to use job-hunting stickers on one million bottles of wine from southwestern France, each giving personal details of one of 1,000 unemployed young people. *(Reuter)*

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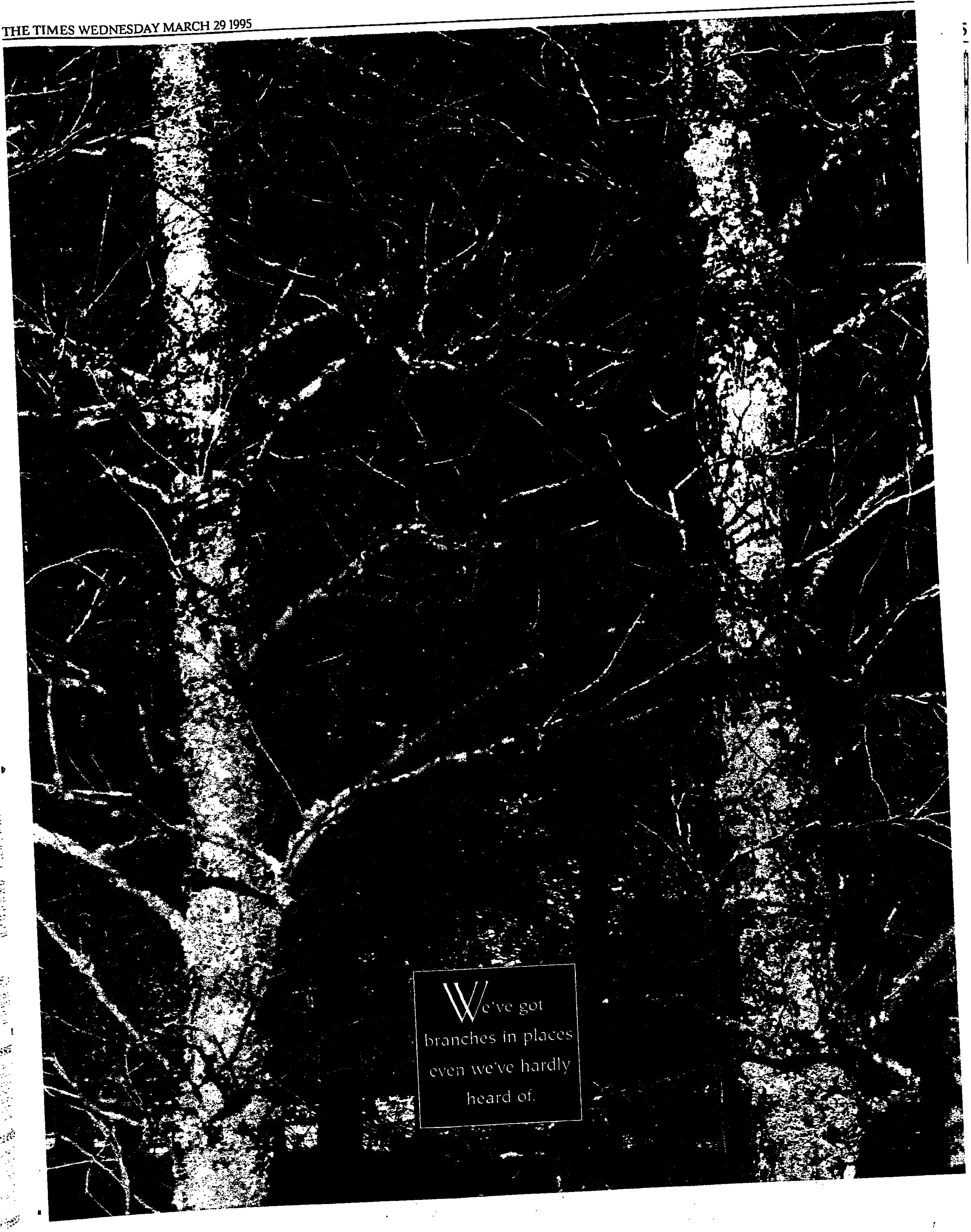

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Britain struggles to influence debate despite slowing of federalist momentum

Ambassadors fire first shots of battle to reshape Europe

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

Members of the European "reflection group", from left. Britain's David Davis. Elisabeth Guigou of France, and Spain's Marcelino Oreja

THE long war to reshape Europe's constitution has begun. Fifteen EU ambassadors this week squared up for the first skirmish.

The official launch of an 18-strong "reflection group" of national ministers and MEPs to prepare a conference of EU governments in 1996 is still more than three months away. The ambassadors were debating the first of many hundreds of pieces of paper which will be haggled over, torn up, redrafted and eventually passed to the reflection group.

While this traditional game of 15-dimensional chess is being played out, elections are redrawing Europe's political map. In May, France is to choose a new President: polls favour Jacques Chirac, an old-fashioned Gaullist lukewarm about the EU. Helmut Kohl's coalition in Germany faces two regional elections which threaten his Government. Italy, Spain and Belgium will have new governments by the end of the year.

Governments in France, The Netherlands and Italy — which were sure in 1991 that the moment had come for a leap towards a federal Europe — have lost that certainty. Four years ago you would not have heard an EU ambassador from a loyally federalist country describe plans for the European Commission to become the embryo Government of Europe as "pure crap".

British attempts to move the discussion away from debates about classical federalism register modest success. The F-word has almost vanished from public debate. The momentum behind ideas for a "hard core" of states forging ahead to economic and political union has slackened. The Franco-German partnership is chilled by the prospect of a Chirac presidency and by an unresolved deadlock over the nation state. Much of the German political class argues that the nation state is being overtaken by events too big for its structures to handle. Their French and British equivalents want to adapt the State while keeping it as Europe's basic building block. In an unguarded aside recently, Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, predicted that 1996 would not witness a Franco-German blitzkrieg.

The dialogue across the Rhine is stumbling on the deepest problem of all: there is no real agreement about what the EU is for. Progress towards a superpower federation? Peace and stability in Western or Eastern Europe, or both? A diplomatic bridge between Russia and America? A prosperous free trade zone? All these ideas are in play.

"The big question is: are we going to have an open-ended debate over ends before we plunge into the mechanics of ends?," an EU diplomat said. "If we just talk about institutional machinery, the UK will have a hard time."

Mr Major's partners hate acknowledging any British influence on events and the Government is making heavy weather on many issues. The timetable for the single currency looms over governments. Irrespective of how much or how little the 1996 talks settle, a small core of states will probably be qualified for a monetary union in 1999 and can press ahead regardless of the rest. Two buzz words have come to the fore: "efficiency" and "democracy". Both have federalist solutions. To be "efficient" with 20 or so members, the argument runs, the EU will have to take most of its decisions by majority vote. To be democratic and "transparent", such a Union will have to be much more accountable to the directly elected MEPs of the European Parliament. If this argument deadlocks because of reservations by Britain or other reluctant countries, German and a handful of allies will ask for the treaty to allow a "hard core" to press ahead. Mr Major's strategy appears to be a search for fudges which avoid such a fracture.

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EU players vie to win over sceptical public

BY GEORGE BROCK

Most of the European Union's 15 governments, the Commission and Parliament have not yet completed their manifestos for the EU's "reflection group" on the 1996 conference on Maastricht, let alone for the real negotiations. Governments and the EU institutions are floating ideas, aware that the secrecy of the 1991 Maastricht negotiation stoked voters' resentment against the treaty: the next negotiation will be more open to public scrutiny.

BRITAIN

Represented on the reflection group by David Davis, a Euro-sceptical Foreign Office junior minister. Whitehall officials are clocking up thousands of air miles, testing ideas among partners: A memorandum about defence went down like a lead balloon with the Commission, which would like the European Union to swallow the ten-nation Western European Union, while Britain would like the two bodies to be kept separate.

Ideas about giving national parliaments powers to limit EU court decisions, arbitrate over subsidiarity, or vote on the Commission's plans are not attracting support. Stripping the European Court of Justice of some powers is not proving popular either. Whitehall is very keen to raise issues of cutting EU spending before East European states join, but this is not strictly a treaty revision.

GERMANY

Infighting is continuing within the federal Government. Plans for an EU "hard core", pushed last year by Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrat associates, Karl Lamers and Wolfgang Schäuble, have faded and follow-up papers have been shelved. Bonn's reflection group member is Werner Hoyer, the European Affairs Minister, a conciliator. Pressure to abolish inter-governmental decision-making segments of Maastricht has slackened. But Herr Kohl is still committed to abolishing national vetoes "little by little". The Bonn coalition is committed to giving more powers to the European Parliament.

COMMISSION

Jacques Santer, the President, emphasises results and not theology: he appeared before the Parliament recently and said that the Commission would not want to extend its powers. Some of his advisers want to push the EU towards a joint defence policy while others want to avoid trench warfare with national governments who regard it as a touchstone of sovereignty. The reflection group representative will be Marcelino Oreja, the Spanish Commissioner, a former MEP and author of a draft constitution for a federal Europe. Señor Oreja's plans will be voted on in May but are likely to emphasise powers for the Parliament and demand better results on foreign policy and immigration.

PARLIAMENT

Two MEPs are members of the reflection group for the first time: Elmar Brok, a German Christian Democrat, and Elizabeth Guigou, a French Socialist. Herr Brok is well connected in Bonn and pushing a traditional German integration agenda. He is strong on co-ordinated measures against cross-border crime, a problem that he thinks too vast for nation states to tackle individually. Mme Guigou's position inside the Parliament's Socialist bloc is weaker since French Socialists lost heavily in the last Euro-election. Both these MEPs will report frequently to their colleagues, making debate more open than ever.

FRANCE

If Jacques Chirac becomes President, he has to balance Europhile and Euro-sceptic wings of the French Right. Staying close to Germany remains a priority. A proposal by French MPs to give the European Parliament a second chamber of national MPs flopped. France wants the EU to elect a minister as its president for three years at a time. It is firmly committed to a single currency and likely to remain so, and close to Britain on learning defence lessons of Bosnia. Its reflection group representative is not yet named. The French usually negotiate with a flexible strategy based on a small set of key demands, and are always ready to compromise with Germany in the end.

Chirac: staying close to Germany a priority

BENELUX

Belgium backs traditional federalist solutions, but will be prepared to allow large states to boost their voting power if they can hold on to other privileges that small states won in the 1950s. Luxembourg lays heavier emphasis on free trade and deregulation. The Dutch were bruised by rejection of the federalist draft treaty last time round and public opinion is cooling on Europe because The Netherlands has become a large net contributor to the EU budget.

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Chinese begin to whisper about nation's hidden horrors

Mao: speeches edited to make him always right

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

■ The Communist Party in Peking has for years kept secret famines, massacres and cannibalism, helped by the public's conflicting desires to know the truth and yet to keep painful memories buried

IN 1918 Lu Xun, one of China's greatest modern writers, asked whether informing the Chinese about the nature of their country's tragedy would be like waking sleeping people in a burning house from which they cannot escape. The subject is just as painful today.

Are there secrets about the Communist Party, and the Chinese people, which the party keeps to itself and which even intellectuals prefer not to confront? Cannibalism is one of these secrets.

Eating people for ideological reasons happened during the Cultural Revolution of the late 1960s and early 1970s. The party knows about it, as do the relatives of the victims, but it has yet to be made public in China. In 1986 and in 1988, Zheng Yi, a journalist who now lives in America, went to Guangxi province where he obtained photographs and documents detailing the cannibalism. Zheng says: "I think thousands participated in the cannibalism and at least many hundreds were eaten. The party knows all about it." Ruan Ming, a former party official who lives in America, doubts whether making the Guangxi cannibalism public would have a good effect. "It would hurt the image of the State and would damage public morale."

Su Shaozhi, the former Director of the party's Marxism-Leninism-Maoism Institute, and another exile in America, said: "The party depends on its ideology to deceive the masses. Once they see through the whole thing, they will no longer believe the party."

China's leaders rarely appear in public, preferring, like the emperors, to rule "from behind the screen". Even Mao Tse-tung's writings and texts of his speeches are kept secret. They were regularly re-edited over a 30-year period to make it seem that he had always been wise about the present and the future. Stuart Schram, Mao's biographer, who pointed out this doctoring, says: "The party thinks of itself as almost a religious order, as sacrosanct . . . people outside have no business knowing how it operates."

Another disaster was the great famine of 1959-61 which was not revealed officially until 20 years later, although millions had suffered. The party admitted that 16 million people had died, but not that the famine resulted from Mao's disastrous agricultural policies.

Jasper Becker, Peking correspondent for the *South China Morning Post* who has studied the famine, said: "This was the worst famine in human history. Forty million died. In 1981 Mao was blamed for the Cultural Revolution but was exempted from blame for the famine. That would have left his whole legacy as amounting to nothing."

Probably no question hangs over the party more heavily than the way it crushed the Tiananmen Square demonstrations. This "incident" remains taboo. The party insists that on June 3 and 4, 1989, it reacted to an attempt to overthrow the communist system, and that most of those killed were policemen and soldiers. Western reporters who were there think that possibly thousands of unarmed civilians were killed, but it is impossible to find out the truth from the authorities.

The question is whether the Chinese want to know how violently they acted when the party gave them the opportunity. This is an important distinction from the former Soviet Union, where the KGB did much of the dirty work. In China, as Jung Chang's memoir *Wild Swans* shows, it required little to get the Chinese to turn on each other, particularly if they thought they were proving themselves to be loyal Maoists and averting persecution. During the Cultural Revolution, school children crippled their teachers and workers murdered their colleagues. There is no literature about cannibalism or about the full horrors of the famine. Nobody who did the killing, maiming, and persecuting has publicly confessed.

These are hard matters to confront. However, this is changing. George Orwell imagined a "memory hole" down which totalitarians drop awkward facts and this remains in Peking, but the Chinese increasingly demand the restoration of a basic human right: the accurate memory of times past. Dai Qing, a journalist who investigates party history, says: "You should imagine living in a dark room with all the shades drawn. If one shade goes up — just a crack — the light that enters is suddenly very interesting."

The first of Jonathan Mirsky's two special reports, "Secrets", will be broadcast on BBC Radio 4's The World Tonight *at 10pm tonight.*

Hurd tells Turkey incursion puts Euro ties at risk

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR, AND MICHAEL THEODOULOU

BRITAIN has warned Turkey that it must remove its troops from northern Iraq as soon as possible, or face a likely veto in the European Parliament of Turkey's proposed customs union with the EU.

Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, has written to Erdal Inonu, the new Foreign Minister, congratulating him on his appointment but making it clear that tolerance in Britain and Nato for Turkey's intervention is wearing thin. Mr Hurd's warning follows repeated messages in the past week that the operation must be short and sharp, and should not be directed against Kurdish civilians.

At least 100 people have been killed in clashes between Iraq's two main rebel Kurdish groups opposed to President Saddam Hussein, providing a bloody sideshow to Turkey's huge military incursion into northern Iraq.

The fratricidal conflict highlights the anarchy prevailing in northern Iraq, which Turkey has used to justify its operation in the face of growing international calls for a speedy withdrawal of its 35,000 troops. Turkey's intentions remained unclear yesterday, with Tansu Ciller, the Prime Minister, reassuring her Western allies that the operation would soon be over, while military commanders hinted at a prolonged stay.

The United Nations is evacuating hundreds more Turkish Kurds from the northern Iraqi border town of Zakho.

Up to 1,000 Turkish Kurds, mostly women and children have left the war zone for tented camps 60 miles deeper into Iraq, after allegations that Turkish forces had arrested civilians suspected of links with the separatist Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK).

The Turkish operation inside northern Iraq has failed to quell rebel activity at home. Officials said nine PKK guerrillas and four villagers were killed in two days of clashes across Turkey's troubled eastern and southeastern provinces. Abdullah Ocalan, the PKK leader, has been urging his fighters to launch raids inside Turkey to relieve pressure on those inside northern Iraq. Turkish officials claimed that the villagers, including two children, were killed on Monday night when PKK guerrillas raided Gurumlu village in Sirnak province. Three guerrillas later died in clashes with troops. Four PKK fighters, including a woman, were reported killed in Tunceli province, where the PKK recently killed 18 Turkish soldiers in an ambush.

Ciller: reassured allies operation would end soon

The clashes between Iraqi Kurds, which erupted on Monday, centred on the key city of Arbil, the seat of the region's paralysed Kurdish administration. Arbil, 100 miles south of the area now occupied by Turkish forces, is controlled by the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), led by Jalal Talabani. His men claimed yesterday that they repulsed attacks by Massoud Barzani's rival Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), which surrounds the city.

"At least 100 people have been killed on both sides since the KDP forces attacked eight PUK positions in and around Arbil on Monday morning," a PUK spokesman said. The casualty count suggested the inter-Kurdish clashes were far fiercer than those between the Turkish forces and the PKK separatists.

In Geneva, Swiss riot police used teargas and water cannon to disperse about 200 angry Turkish Kurd protesters who had broken into the grounds of the United Nations. They were protesting that the UN was not doing enough to protect Kurdish refugees in northern Iraq.

Hillary Clinton and daughter Chelsea with two babies at the Delhi orphanage, run by Mother Teresa and her missionary sisters, which they visited yesterday

First Lady gives beds to orphans

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

HILLARY CLINTON, the American First Lady, cuddled babies and sang with children at Mother Teresa's orphanage yesterday on the first day of a visit to India that she said would build ties of "friendship and partnership".

Mrs Clinton, who arrived from Pakistan on the second leg of a 12-day South Asian tour yesterday, spent 40 minutes at the orphanage and announced that she would donate about 20 beds to it. Her gesture will be welcome in a country that has become a victim of its own economic propaganda.

India faces devastating cuts in international aid for anti-poverty schemes because of the impression that it is becoming rich enough to fend for itself. There is clear evidence, however, that poverty has increased sharply since economic reforms began four years ago.

Thirty-five countries that contribute funds to a World Bank soft loans programme may decide to end or reduce billions of dollars in loans to India for projects aimed at primary education, clean water, basic healthcare and population control. Aid workers say that the impact of a cut-off or severe reduction would be devastating.

Thatcher speaks out on colony

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PEKING

BARONESS Thatcher, obviously feeling that she can play a key role in easing Sino-British tensions, jumped feet first into the vexed Hong Kong problem yesterday when *she met Li Peng, the* Chinese Prime Minister, in the exclusive Zhongnanhai leadership compound in Peking.

Possibly to the exasperation of the Foreign Office, which has been at pains to emphasise that Lady Thatcher's visit is private, she made it clear that the colony was in the forefront of her concerns.

"I'd like to start by talking about the remaining problems in Hong Kong," Lady Thatcher said after being introduced to Mr Li. "There are quite a number of things to be solved and two years [to the Chinese takeover] is not very long in which to solve them," she said only hours after her arrival. But in a strong voice that showed she had lost none of her verve, *the former Prime* Minister told Mr Li: "It is long enough as long as we get on with it."

Winnie Mandela stays silent over government dismissal

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN CAPE TOWN

WINNIE MANDELA went to ground yesterday as the African National Congress and its allies rallied behind President Mandela and his decision to dismiss his estranged wife from the South African Government.

For once Mrs Mandela was silent in the face of criticism. After she was dismissed on Monday as Deputy Minister of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology, she declined to comment pending a press conference, which did not materialise.

She spent the day in her Cape Town flat and is expected to return to Johannesburg today. Alan Reynolds, her press secretary, who resigned out of loyalty, suggested she would consult her constiuency in the townships near Johannesburg before making any public statement.

Mr Mandela has declined to give reasons for firing his estanged wife but ANC sources said yesterday the President has recently promised tough measures against indiscipline and lawlessness and felt undermined by Mrs Mandela, who in recent weeks has openly criticised the Government.

Throughout yesterday, figures within the ANC and party allies came forward with messages of support for the President's action. This included the Congress of South African Trade Unions, the National Civics Assocation, a militant township-based movement usually loyal to Mrs Mandela, and the South African Communist Party. So far the only dissenting voice has come from a small group of ANC Women's League supporters, who demonstrated outside ANC headquaters in Johannesburg. Even her prominent supporters have failed to back her publicly.

However, Mr Reynolds said that Mrs Mandela still has a strong support base as an MP, Women's League president, and treasurer of Contralesa, a tradtional leaders' organisation, and she will build on that. "Winnie is someone you do not frighten. If she does cause trouble it will be within the party. She will take a firm stand on important issues and they will have to listen," he said.

US seeks ban on Libya oil

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

AMERICA is to press for an international embargo against Libyan oil as part of an intensified effort to force Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, the country's leader, to surrender the two Libyan agents accused of carrying out the 1988 Lockerbie bombing.

Anthony Lake, President Clinton's National Security Adviser, told relatives of some of the 270 people who died in the destruction of Pan Am Flight 103 about the new American initiative at a White House meeting on Monday.

By way of response, Colonel Gaddafi said Libya would defy the ban on international air links by flying Muslim pilgrims to Saudi Arabia during the pilgrimage season starting next month. Libya would also reconsider its United Nations membership.

An oil embargo would quickly wreak havoc on Libya and would drive up world oil prices. Britain's support for the American call was distinctly qualified yesterday, with a spokesman saying that "we have to consider what is achievable".

Hope of DNA clue to Dead Sea Scrolls

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

IN WHAT may be the most complex genetic jigsaw puzzle ever attempted, American and Israeli scientists are using DNA testing to try to piece together thousands of fragments from the Dead Sea Scrolls written on animal skins.

Some 15 of the scrolls have been translated since they were first discovered in 1947, but more than 10,000 tiny scraps of parchment, principally goat skin, remain unreconstructed and in various states of decay.

More than 2,000 years after they were written, in part or in whole by the Essenes, a Jewish sect, scientists have found that the shreds of parchment still contain enough residual genetic material for accurate DNA testing.

By identifying the skins of various species and even individual animals, eventually it should be possible to determine which fragment belongs where, according to Dr Scott Woodward of Brigham Young University in Utah, who has been working on the scroll fragments with fellow scientists at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem for the past six months.

"We have already taken DNA from a little more than a dozen scroll fragments, and we have been able to identify the animals," Dr Woodward told *The New York Times*. He has previously extracted DNA material from Egyptian mummies, ancient mammoths and, most controversially last year, a bone fragment believed to be from an 80-million-year-old dinosaur.

Many of the remaining Dead Sea scroll fragments are so minute and the writing on them so faded that previous efforts at reconstruction have had to rely on guesswork. But with a genetic blueprint to show which scraps belong together, the task should become far easier, according to scholars.

Dr Herschel Shanks, of the *Biblical Archaeology Review*, described as "really marvellous" the possibility of using DNA testing to restore the scrolls. "This is a jigsaw puzzle with 90 per cent of the pieces missing, and we would be grateful for any new information at all," he said.

But first Dr Woodward must separate the sheep from the goats. Initial tests showed that some of the scroll remnants may have come from gazelles, sheep or ibex, although subsequent analysis suggests that the parchment is mostly goatskin.

Christian scholars are particualrly keen to reconstruct the remaining scraps since one small scroll fragment appears similar to a passage from the Gospel of Saint Mark and may indicate a link between the Essenes and early Christianity.

The Essenes lived near the Dead Sea between 200 BC and 100 AD and DNA testing may also help to establish whether the scrolls are the work of a single group of scribes or whether the documents found in the caves of Qumran represent the work of many writers, gradually collected over time.

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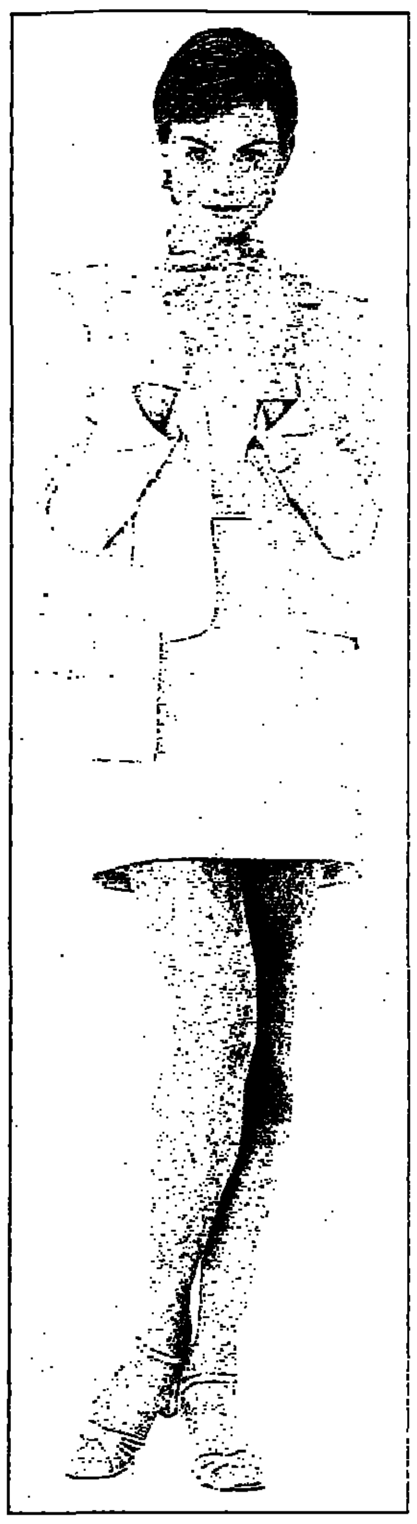

Above: Lilac satin-edged jacket, £395, matching skirt, £211, Caroline Charles, 170 New Bond Street, W1, 56-57 Beauchamp Place, SW3, Hoopers, Cheltenham and Wilmslow, Manchester; white cotton gloves, £18, Cornelia James, department stores nationwide; patent bag, £165, diamanté buckle shoes, £135, Russell & Bromley branches (0171-499 2621)

Above centre: Buff belted shift dress and matching jacket, to order from Catherine Walker for the Chelsea Design Company, 65 Sydney Street, SW3 (0171-352 4626); lace gloves, £15 approx, Cornelia James, as above; bow bag, £220, Anya Hindmarch, 91 Walton Street, SW3 (0171-584 7644); white strap shoes, £69.99, Russell & Bromley, as above; patent belt, £19 50, Otto Glanz, Harrods, SW1, Fenwicks, Bond Street, W1, House of Fraser stores

Above left: Pale blue belted jacket, £44.99, matching A-line skirt, £21.99, Top Shop stores nationwide (0171-291 2351); white cotton gloves, Cornelia James, as above; white patent gold handle handbag, £175, Russell & Bromley, as above; white patent shoes, £39.99, Carvella, 95-96 New Bond Street, W1, Selfridges, W1; Cosmetics For Legs tights, Factor 1, £2.50, Sock Shop branches nationwide

Far left: Ivory jacket, £50, matching shift dress, £35, Marks & Spencer, selected branches nationwide (0171-935 4422); white lace gloves, Cornelia James, as above; white patent double-zip bag, £55, Dollargrand, Way In, Harrods, SW1, Fenwicks, Newcastle (0171-794 3028)

Photographs by CHRIS DAWES
Hair and make-up by Hina Dohi

Fashion

◆

IAIN R. WEBB

When the spring-summer collections were unveiled last October, you could almost hear a collective sigh of relief from women the world over. There on the international catwalks were models dressed in seriously practical suits.

Not since the 1980s has the suit been more important, but where the previous powerhouse incarnation was sharp and strident, the new version is sleek and ladylike, taking its inspiration from the film-starry looks of Joan Crawford, Veronica Lake, even Celia Johnson, or the First Lady chic of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis.

This season designers offer not only a conventional two-piece (jacket and skirt) which follows the body's form, but also a combination of dress (invariably a slightly A-line, flared shift) and jacket.

In keeping with the trend for all things feminine, suits are coloured with a palette of sweet-looking pastels, neutral silver greys and buff shades or milky whites.

The international designers voted the suit a unanimous hit. Gianni Versace exaggerated the hourglass silhouette with seriously tailored jackets featuring nipped-in waistlines, while Calvin Klein offered the easiest option with an oatmeal knitted version.

Dolce & Gabbana, Genny, Anne Klein, Alberta Ferretti and Chanel favoured pink, parma violet and ice blue. Valentino, Miu Miu, Michael Kors and Ferragamo chose ivory, oyster and ice white. There are endless variations on the high street with some of the best by Marks & Spencer, Top Shop, Oasis and Kookai.

A curvy silhouette is a must. Shoulders should be defined, given a little lift with a pad, but be warned: it is no longer remotely fashionable to be mistaken for a member of the cast of *Dynasty*. Hemlines fall anywhere between thigh and calf, with the most directional length hovering around the knee.

Accessories reflect the prim and proper mood. Chic, open-toed strappy shoes and whiplash thin belts, further emphasising the S-bend silhouette, are teamed with sensibly sized handbags (think of any female member of the Royal Family over 40).

With the forthcoming Season almost upon us, dress the look up but keep it simple — wear a hat, either small and silly or grand and dramatic, and Sunday-best white cotton and lace gloves.

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☐ Pink and white check single-breasted jacket, £54.99, matching knee-length skirt, £24.99, House of Fraser, selected stores nationwide (0171-963 2000).

☐ White linen mix belted jacket, £99, matching short skirt, £45, Kookai, selected branches nationwide (0171-499 4564).

☐ Lime wool-mix single-breasted jacket, £79.99, matching knee-length skirt, £44.99, Oasis (as above).

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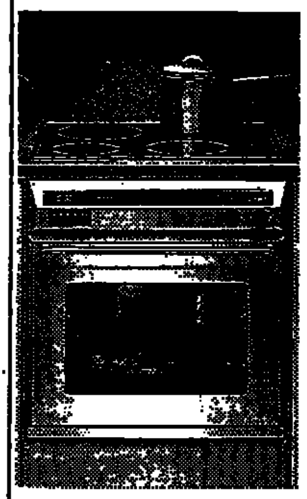

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هكذا من الأصل

Some of the best teachers dress scruffily for the simplest reasons, says **Libby Purves** — and their pupils are none the worse off for it

Mrs Shephard's first cuckoo

HERE we go again. The first electoral cuckoos are calling. *Ministers queue up* to whine about nasty interviewers (though Sir Bernard Ingham, bless his red choleric face, says they should "stop bleating"). Labour shows off its hand-knitted crime figures. *And to the horror* of her fan club, Gillian Shephard starts sounding like a cartoon Tory lady.

There she was, making a perfectly sensible speech about how bad teachers should be sacked, when *suddenly* the worst kind of clichéd political silliness overcame this excellent woman. "There is no room", she said, "for flares, flowery smocks and hippy headbands any more . . . no room for *incompetent* teachers . . . we all look forward to a flare-free future."

This is hogwash. Weary, pathetic, *datedly* trendy hogwash: mid-1980s power-dressing codswallop. Like the catchpenny "training course" launched a few months ago to instruct teachers how to dress for success. You know: tailored jackets, navy *skirts* off the knee, shades of authoritative beige. The sort of thing a business-school graduate might wear when trying to get a job as an NHS Trust executive in charge of finding impressive ways to describe the closure of intensive care beds.

I know she was using the clothes as a code for a certain kind of sloppiness: I too have met, back in 1973, teachers who defended their charges' illiteracy with lines like: "Books aren't everything — our kids come out as really rounded, nice people." Mrs Shephard is *right* to insist that teachers must teach children things. But clothes have nothing to do with it.

Snappy dressing does not indicate teaching quality, or even create respect. *Classes may giggle over a teacher's* baggy corduroy jacket or hippy smock; but what chiefly concerns the children — who are stuck with this person in a small room week after week — is whether he or she is interesting and helpful. They are not stupid. They know school is not a fashion show.

I suppose ideally teachers should not look too like hookers or bikers; but there is no need whatever for them to look like flight attendants. Some *of the best ones I know are scruffy or fey* in their dress. There are reasons for this. Teachers are not paid like corporate executives. The buildings they work in are not ritzy. "Smart" tailored jackets are expensive; schools are full of chalk and felt pens and wobbly CDT projects and sculptures made out of wire. They are also full of children. Mucky things, children: if primary-school teachers wear hippy-looking crinkled cotton skirts which can be thrown in the washing machine and not ironed, it could have something to do with the prevalence of sticky hands and running noses somewhere around knee-level. If science teachers do not wear their best shirts to school, it could be because they know too *much about dyes and corrosives and the* way your cuff sticks out beyond your lab coat. If those whose work lies in tough inner-city schools like to wear the loose clothing and flat heels of the streetfighter, who is to blame them?

Let them teach, for God's sake, in whatever clothes they and their heads think fit. Who knows, Mrs Shephard: in the brave (and admittedly overdue) new world where bad teachers get sacked, you might even find to your surprise that some of the worst ones wear navy suits with pussycat Thatcher bows, and that some of the best look like Michael Foot. Or even Michael Jackson.

The madness of British film-making

Margot Norman on the strange way *King George* was awarded its design Oscar

Ken Adam chose his words carefully and with economy when *accepting his Oscar for best* art direction on *The Madness of King George*. It was, he said, "an incredible adventure for me to work on this film". It must have penetrated the 4.45am fog of even the sleepiest British television viewer that every adventure has its hairy side: unlike almost all the other gushing winners, this solemn man with the *Hollywood* tan and the slight German accent was evidently not recalling the happiest days of his working life.

Things were hairy right up to the last moment. On stage sharing the glory with Adam was Carolyn Scott, his exhausted-looking set dresser, and *few* who worked on the film were happy with that. "There was a terrible row about that nomination," said one crew member. "Everyone knows Martin Child should have been up *there* receiving that Oscar with Ken: Ken Adam was the production designer but Martin was the art director, and he really did *most of the work just* as he did on *Frankenstein* and *Much Ado*. Carolyn wandered about calling everybody dahling, which I can assure *you is not what we* called *her*."

Even the producer, Stephen Evans, ever the English gent even when woken in the Los Angeles *dawn after his* big night, sighed deeply and said: "It should have been Martin's Oscar, and in our eyes it is." What happened, he explained, *was that British and* American film-makers use different job titles: in American terms Martin Child had the wrong title, and under the ludicrous Oscar *rules titles are what count*.

REUTER

Adam and Scott show off their Oscars

So *Mad George* got the wrong Oscar. Best actor for Nigel Hawthorne's flawless performance would have been right, or best screenplay for Alan Bennett. Fine British actors and writers come cheapish, though. To get the award for best-looking picture on a budget of only $8 million (around a quarter of the cost of a run-of-the-mill *Hollywood* feature) is quite an achievement. As Evans says: "There are some ironies in all this, because what we managed to put on the screen is what they call 'production value', and normally that's *what costs the* big money."

And that, of course, is where the tensions came in during shooting. The usual adjective for Ken Adam's work in films and opera is "sumptuous". At 74 (but looking 60), the former wartime RAF pilot has a lot of *mega-buck productions to his* credit. He has houses in Malibu and Montpelier Square in Knightsbridge to show for his efforts. He must have spent many, many millions doing seven James Bond *films*, *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* and the movie that won him an Oscar 20 years ago, *Barry Lyndon*.

Working on location with people who were sometimes having to cram 18 set-ups into a day rather than the usual five or six must have been something of a shock to Adam's system. *So must their* anguished looks when he spent thousands on the making of a luxurious bed that ended up too big for the King's bedroom in Arundel Castle.

The big-buck attitude inev*itably rubbed off on some of* the crew, who demanded overtime payments they would normally have waived when filming in tightwad Britain. In the end, though, the *stamina* and ingenuity of Martin *Child's* team was up to it. You want a huge crowd of unbudgeted-for extras outside St Paul's? OK, we'll give you a small crowd and triple it with *special effects. You want them* in expensive period hats too? Tomorrow? Oh, help, we'll see what we can do.

The locations themselves, fortunately, were as sumptuous as anyone could possibly wish. The audience is taken on a sort of Best of Britain's Heritage tour, from Oxford (with Convocation standing in *for the House of Commons* interior) to Eton (Westminster exteriors), the Royal Naval College at Greenwich, the castles of Windsor and Arundel, the Double Cube Room at Wilton House (the *Prince of Wales's lodging*). Best of all was Broughton, where the King read *King Lear* among the sheep grazing the meadows beyond the formal garden: *the most beautiful* of houses, Alan Bennett called it, "*almost a standard kit for* an idyll". The props and costumes are good, but locations and lighting are what make this film look the part for the days when royalty was de luxe.

The Madness of King George almost missed being up for an Oscar at all. Nobody realised until they saw the over*long rough cut quite* how creative all those tensions had been. It was then that Samuel Goldwyn understood he just might have put *his money into* a winner and not a little, exclusively British, unsuitably literary exercise.

The race was on to get the thing ready *by the new year* closing date for nominations. Twenty-four weeks scheduled post-production were *squeezed into* 12, with the director Nick Hytner and the editor Tariq Anwar closeted constantly together. You can only cut corners that big, *says Stephen* Evans, when there's a really good film in there waiting to be released.

Most people say Evans cut it almost too fine, by releasing the film in only two small *American art houses — one in* Los Angeles, one in New York — at the eleventh hour. He got away with it. The film *was* good, the critics said so loudly.

Towards the end of the film the recovering King says: "I have always been myself, but now I seem myself. I have remembered how to seem." Fraught but triumphant seeming is what this Oscar was *awarded for*.

Other British nominees did their seeming on even tighter budgets. Channel 4 backed 12 of them, thereby beating all the big studios as a talent-spotter. As the British section *of the evening's billion-strong* audience heard Michael Grade say on Oscar night, isn't it time the Government allowed Channel 4 to stop subsidising ITV and use the money to back yet more?

ROLAND LEON/NEWS TEAM

The £387,136 which Michael Williams won on the National Lottery will not be frittered away on a grand lifestyle. Instead, his dogs will have more meat

Life's little lottery

Overnight Michael Williams became the richest man in Pencaenwydd. **Walter Ellis** on what happened next

A scarecrow resembling an anorexic *Nora Batty greets the* visitor to Michael Williams's stone cottage near Pencaenwydd, in the remote heart of the Lleyn Peninsula.

Hens cackle behind a fence. Cats cavort on the muddy strip of grass to the front, where a lump of rotting meat provides them with a bloody repast. But the most disquieting presence is that of the pack of dogs — 14 *in all* — which, upon the stranger's approach, set up a dissonant howl and launch themselves furiously against the flimsy fence that divides them from the outside world.

Michael Williams, 63, who *earlier this month won* £387,136 on the National Lottery, strides, ruddy-faced, to the gate, calling on his dogs to stay back and be quiet. He is wearing a quilted jacket against the biting March *wind, and a fisherman's hat*. He looks happy. Life has been good to him at last, and he doesn't care who knows it.

Not, mind, that he is going to *move house or take* a holiday in the Bahamas or buy himself a luxury limousine. Far from it. He is not, he says, even going to have a telephone installed. But he *is* going to have his mouldering window *frames replaced* and *he has* his eyes on a new front porch to keep out the draughts.

What's more — and surely this is what brings the twinkle to his eyes — local financiers are his allies now, perhaps *even his friends*. The bank manager and his deputy like to spend time with him and are solicitous with their advice. For a one-time bankrupt, *such indulgence is the greatest* luxury of all.

Mr Williams has also rediscovered the enduring power of *friendship*. People he *has not* seen for years have gone out of their way to convey their best wishes — some from as far afield as Edinburgh and Leeds. An old girlfriend he had not seen since he was a teenager wrote *to tell him she* had been thinking of him. A former landlady from Jersey — where he had worked in the building trade in the 1970s — sent him a card in which she had inscribed the legend: "*Sometimes it's hard to put* feelings into words."

Children passing by on the street give him the thumbs-up sign. Mr Williams is thrilled. "I never knew I had so many friends."

But he is canny, too. Advisers from the bank told him that he could donate £60,000 each to his children, Sylvia and Kenneth, free of tax. Mr Williams considered this option then declined. "They can have what's left when I'm gone," he announced.

To his ex-wife, who left him seven years ago *for the bright lights of* Aberffraw, on Anglesey, the luck of the draw will be a new television set and video recorder, but nothing much more, it seems.

Really big-time lottery win*ners — those who win millions* of pounds — face the sort of disruption that transforms their lives. Camelot, the lottery organisers, send in teams of *advisers, and there is, almost* inevitably, a keen desire for privacy.

Not so with Michael Williams. At his age, £380,000 *guarantees* a *prosperous* retirement and the possibility of occasional grand gestures. But he is not a millionaire and he does not expect to be treated like one.

Camelot supplied him with an advice booklet and directed him to his local bank, but it does not see him as a long-term commitment.

If anything, Mr Williams welcomes this. He has deposited £36,000 in his bank account in Pwllheli and placed the rest in low-risk investments, as recommended. The results, he *has been assured, should* be a weekly income, assuming a rate of interest of 7 per cent, of as much as £500 a week, leaving his capital intact. It is a *fortune to someone* who *has* spent recent years on invalidity benefit, plagued by rheumatism.

"I didn't fancy this overseas investment business, and I've no intention of buying a £50,000 yacht and keeping it moored in Pwllheli marina. All I want is enough to see me through."

The Williamses are not a close family. Mr Williams rarely sees his children and has to think for a moment before coming up with the name of his grandson, little Kenny. It seems that his marriage broke up *out of lack* of interest: apparently his wife simply didn't like the way he lived. He hasn't seen his brother, Emlyn, for seven years and has lost his address. "I don't suppose he even *knows I've won*," *he says*.

With such loose ties, Pencaenwydd's richest man is free to do pretty much as he *pleases, and it pleases him to* do very little. He has his dogs and *his* cats and his "work room" full of junk. He has his pals down the gardening club (he treated them to a drink recently and it came to all of £34) *and he has his weekly* flutter on the lottery, just two lines, administered by friends.

His lucky numbers, the same every week, were 11, 13, 17, 26, 36 and 42. His second line, also unvaried, is 17, 18, 26, 36, 44 and 48. *The numbers* are written on a jagged-edged piece of cardboard punched out from a box of paper handkerchiefs, and Mr Williams points out, good humouredly, that if he had had a 12 instead of an 11 in his winning line, he would now be *worth £4.2 million*.

Family and friends will no doubt benefit from his good fortune. But they will have to wait. Mr Williams is enjoying being in charge of his life.

As for the animals, they can *look forward to lots more* rotting meat, transported home three times a week in his T-registration Austin Maxi. He is going to buy a new car, too, but he won't use it for trips to the butchers. "It wouldn't do *to get blood on the seats, would it?*"

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Spin doctors who need to bash the Beeb

Politicians instinctively pick on the BBC, argues Tony Hall

It's election time and the pressure is on. The phone calls have begun, as well as the faxes, the complaints, the refusals to take part in programmes — especially if on a subject with which politicians feel uncomfortable.

The reason is not too hard to find. At present, we're in the middle of the Scottish local election campaign, with the local elections in England and Wales not far away. On top of that there's the global warming of the whole political climate as eyes begin to focus on the big prize of a general election some time in the next two years. I had expected the pressure of a general election campaign to begin next January, but I have to recognise that it may be on us now. Why does this happen?

The answer is simple: power. They need your vote, and part of the process of winning it is to put pressure on all the media to concentrate on the issues that benefit their party, keeping carefully away from those that don't. This is where the dark art of the spin doctor comes in: pressurise, cajole, obfuscate in private; and in public, condemn the media for "bias", pursuing their own agenda and giving the other parties an easy time. A complaint from one party will inevitably prompt a complaint from another, generally to ensure no advantage has been lost. Fear of losing the war of words keeps the telephones hot. Lose the battle for ideas and you might lose the election.

Listeners do not want politicians to have it easy

BBC journalists and the political parties have completely different aims. The journalists must be impartial, seeking after the truth, trying to make sense of what's going on, for the benefit of viewers and listeners. The parties are, by definition, wholly partial. In order to get their message across, they believe in the need to manipulate the news agenda for their own self-interest as part of their campaign.

So what are the broadcasters to do? We have to distinguish carefully between accusations of wilful bias on the one hand, and charges of inaccuracy and unfairness on the other. Journalists working under great pressure, against the clock, may make mistakes: a headline may oversimplify, a nuance of a story may be missed, an interview may generate more heat than light. In these cases, there is one simple rule: own up. Treat such complaints seriously, learn from them and make it clear to the audience that a mistake has been made.

But not all complaints are well-founded. What should we do about the more general attacks alleging systematic bias and distortion? At times of great political difficulty, be they internal party divisions, election or wars, the BBC has come under attack. From the Falklands War to the Gulf War, during party crises of Labour or Conservative, our staff have been accused of bias by Government and Opposition.

Before the last election, Chris Patten exhorted the party faithful to complain directly to the BBC about its reporting. The role of BBC journalism is unambiguous. We must present the facts in a clear, dispassionate and accurate way. The British public must hear and see debates about the key issues that affect our nation. The licence fee gives us the independence to do that.

The most important principle is to ensure we treat all sides in the political debate equally and fairly. For our interviewers and presenters, such as John Humphrys on the *Today* programme, this means asking pertinent well-briefed questions on behalf of the public. Our research shows clearly that viewers and listeners do not welcome impoliteness, or needless interruptions. But it also shows an overwhelming body of opinion that wants us to make sure we give no easy rides: we ask the tough, difficult questions and make sure we get the answers.

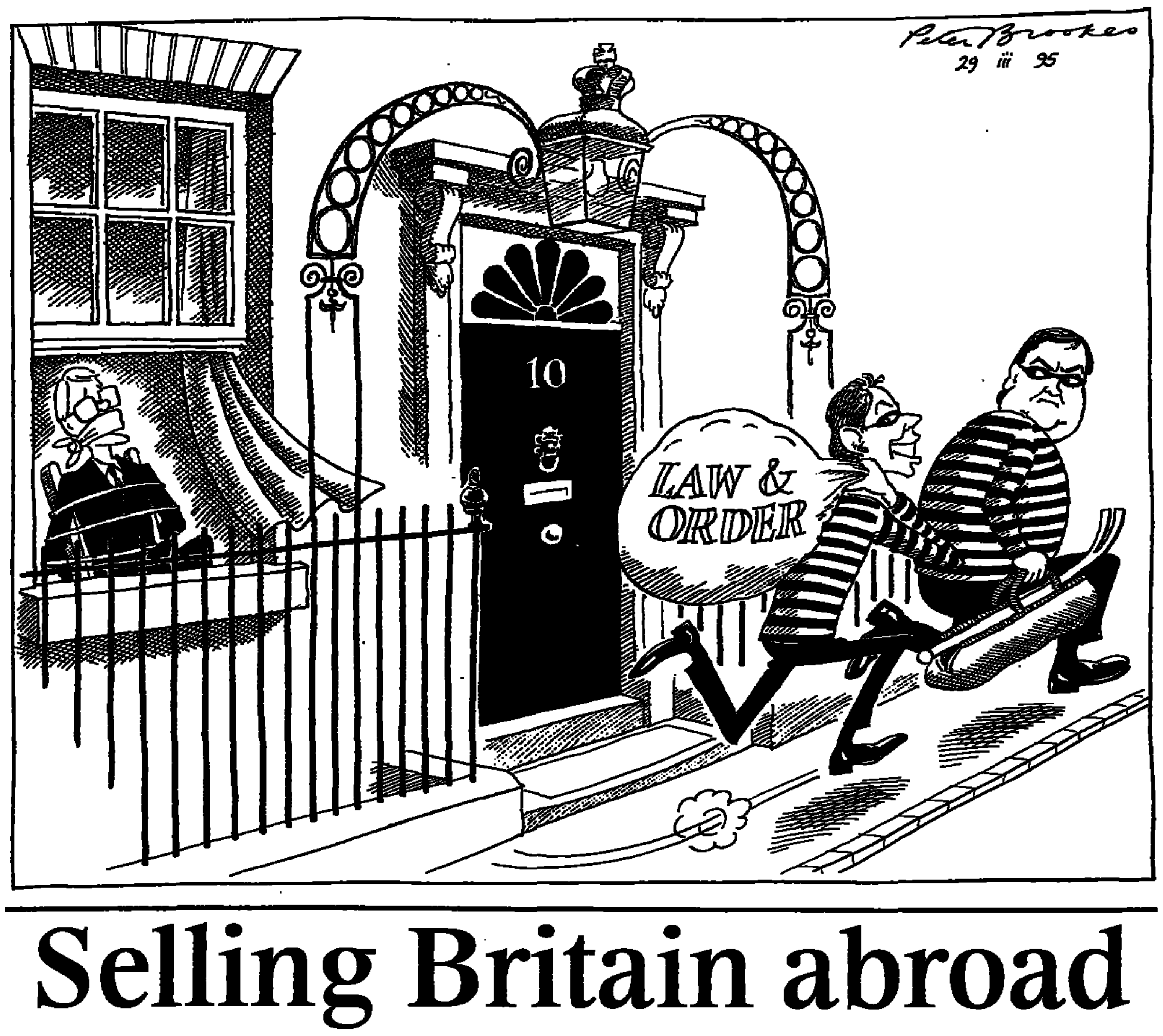
It's also vital we examine the propositions and proposals of all parties with equal rigour, a responsibility we take seriously. Take rail privatisation. In January we interviewed Brian Mawhinney, the Transport Secretary, about policy and problems, on several occasions. We also interviewed Labour, including Tony Blair, Michael Meacher and John Prescott, about what they would do if they were in office. All sides were put on the spot and the issues thoroughly aired. Programmes with a more reflective brief, such as *On The Record*, are examining each party's agenda in detail.

This weekend, for example, they looked at the difficulties of Labour's education policy. This is an important role for the BBC, allowing time for a longer exploration of issues to counter the culture of the soundbite.

We must also ensure we have a proper balance in our political reporting. Of course, we must cover the matters of the moment. But we must also use the breadth of our air time to cover the underlying, significant issues that matter, the forces that shape our politics and the political landscape we inhabit. We need to cover the storm; but we also need the quiet moments of reflection. This is not always very popular with politicians. Over the past year, we have tried to explore the big questions affecting our viewers with special BBC2 programmes on taxation, employment and the health service. Government ministers were invited to participate in all these but refused. We carried on.

Above all, political reporting needs the seasoned judgment of experienced correspondents. All sides seek to use us, and we must not be used. Our viewers and listeners expect us to be impartial, a voice they can trust. Whatever the pressures from whatever quarter, that's the duty all our journalists will continue to carry out.

● *The author is managing director, BBC News and Current Affairs (television and radio).*



Selling Britain abroad

We need to promote our culture to the world, not our dreary diplomats

Simon Jenkins

First smash the Foreign Office. Then cut the entire British overseas budget of £3.7 billion to zero. Next, abandon all embassies, cancel all receptions, signal withdrawal from all international bodies. Take the files, the attachés, the Orders of the Bath, the sherry glasses and bury them full five fathoms deep. Then start again.

Today in London, Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, is sponsoring a most imaginative venture: a Chatham House conference at the Queen Elizabeth II centre to reconsider Britain's role in the world in the post-Cold War age. He wants to build on Britain's strengths: punching above our weight as he allegedly puts it.

Britain is no longer overshadowed by a perceptible armed threat, whatever the military/industrial complex might plead. Britain is free to choose. The diplomatic endeavour can start from scratch. There are moments, said the economist Peter Drucker, when an organisation must do more than change, "it must abandon everything". For the Foreign Office now is that moment.

Freedom from fear should also mean a freedom from waffle. If British ministers must tell the world what they think of it they can at least say what they mean and mean what they say. Out would go phrases such as "What Her Majesty's Government wants to see in South Africa (or Gaza or Bosnia or Rwanda or Russia) is . . ." then a platitude such as ". . . a coming together of both sides". Britain does not "want to see" anything. We are in no position to be a military or a moral imperialist.

I personally might like the world to have a full belly and a free vote, but my representatives should not presume on my behalf. International morality is for private citizens to express through voluntary charities, not the Foreign Office's compulsory ones. Britain should withdraw from the FO's alphabet soup of UN bureaucracies. People can give to the Red Cross and Save the Children rather than have the Government give to Malaysian dams and World Bank fat cats.

Oh the clearing of the air! Smooth-talking can cease. Millions of pounds in school fees and reciprocal hospitality will be saved. Britain's ridiculous military attaché network could fold tomorrow to no noticeable loss in national security. If exporters want to export, let them. Why should we subsidise their profits? As for political reporting from embassies abroad, the Foreign Office admits that nobody reads the stuff. Ministers who want to know what is happening can do what they do anyway, which is read newspapers.

Mr Hurd wants to "deploy effectively" Britain's strengths on my behalf. I am all for that. He identifies them narrowly as the excellence of British soldiers, the dynamism of British bankers (er?) and the glory of British art, literature and "external broadcasting". These constitute a "proud range of national and international assets at our disposal". I agree, but to what end? The Foreign Office wants them to encourage "sustainable development", promote political and economic reform, and project British values to its familiar friend, "a rapidly changing world". This is the kind of flam that filled the FO's draft for John Major's much-trumpeted speech this afternoon. It had him tearing his hair out all weekend.

Britain may have the world's best soldiers, the most honest administrators, the most lethal financiers and the most searing novelists. I am not clear what this has to do with the Foreign Office. Britain also has Durham Cathedral, Cheddar cheese and Dame Maggie Smith. Has Mr Hurd requisitioned them as well?

Outside the Gulf there is a shortage of profitable employment for British soldiers these days. Taking part in multinational ventures in Beirut, Rwanda and Bosnia just gives our boys a better class of bloody nose. British financial services may be outstanding, but they have their thrills and spills without government help, thank goodness. British civil servants are admirable. The world would be a better place if they were running it. But they are either the wrong colour or insufficiently corrupt for the United Nations or the European Union to employ.

As for our overseas aid it is based on Buggins's turn, not rationale. Almost 40 per cent goes to multinational banks to increase Third World indebtedness. Some goes on "aid-for-trade", a covert subsidy to British arms and construction companies, using shady regimes as middle men.

More still goes on so-called "know-how" funds, putting taxpayers' cash into the pockets of academics and consultants in the fond hope that this will somehow "trickle down" to the poor. I have studied the £2.2 billion that Britain sends overseas. Precious little of it goes on the poor, rather on those who claim to be "helping" the poor, which is not the same. Governments do not help the poor. Charities do that. Where Mr Hurd is absolutely right is on culture, but he is not nearly radical enough. The essence of the New Diplomacy states that nations no longer view each other through the eyes of their leaders. The foreigner's image of Britain, the inclination to trade or make friends, is conditioned by what is seen on television, heard on radio, read in books and newspapers, experienced through tourism. The New Diplomats are Oscar winners, sportsmen, tycoons, journalists, tour operators, individual tourists — sometimes even politicians.

Here is Mr Hurd's new core diplomacy. It is devoted to exploiting British language, education and communication skill, to advance whatever policy goals ministers may identify. With political and economic diplomacy left to peripatetic officials out of London, embassies abroad should be selling points for the best of what is British.

Pre-eminent is custodianship of the world's lingua franca. American English must never supplant English English in this respect. Our language is marketable, exportable, booming. The British Council's English 2000 campaign predicted last week that by the end of the century half the globe will either speak English or be eager to learn it. Eighty per cent of the world's electronically stored information is in English. The BBC Overseas Service is the pre-eminent international news medium.

A foreigner's relations with Britain will turn on who taught him English and how well; on Britain's cultural presence in his country; on how football supporters and down-market tourists behave; on the welcome that a foreigner gets in London as a student or tourist; on scholarships and academic exchanges offered; on reports by London correspondents of foreign newspapers.

A study of senior officials in South-East Asia showed an overwhelming tendency to visit and do business with the countries that had given them scholarships as students. Grabbing the most talented academic migrants is the single best investment in foreign relations a nation could make. When the Thatcher Government stopped subsidising overseas students in 1981, Germany, Japan and America shot up this league and Britain plummeted.

This means fashioning a wholly new Foreign Office based on the declared objectives of the British Council, the BBC Overseas Service and the British Tourist Authority. Embassies abroad would not be sold — a lunatic idea — but converted as showcases for British art, design, publishing and the selling of education services. They would be centres of brazen cultural ostentation, not the dreary trade missions beloved of the present Government.

Ambassadors would be cultural attachés. No expense would be spared ensuring that English English was taught in every school, that colleges in Third World states were showered with English textbooks, that British libraries abroad were the most popular in every city.

In London, foreign embassies can be disregarded. Washington's view of Britain is influenced not by diplomats but by the London bureaux of *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*. Domestic diplomatic effort should be devoted to charming the foreign press corps and welcoming foreign students and tourists. London must be scrubbed clean every night. Britain's ramshackle tourist industry must be galvanised, its footballers quarantined, its actors, musicians and singers sent to entertain the world.

That is the way to win friends and influence people. It would be far cheaper than what we do now. Mr Hurd's budget will take an awful clobbering from the Treasury next year. He should tear it up and give the New Diplomacy a break.

Alan Coren

■ Everyone loves the Oscars, even if they can't understand a word

At three o'clock on Tuesday morning, at the very moment that a front door in temperate Cricklewood opened to admit a major pizza, extra ham, no anchovy, a distant cuckoo in the lightless lee of Greenland's icy mountains sprang 12 times from its little premises to alert its nodding owner to the fact that it was time to chuck another fir-trunk into the grate and another elk-pelt over the knees, for it was going to be a long cold night.

On India's coral strand, however, it was going to be a long hot morning, so at 9am, in countless millions of coast-to-coast teapots, vast quantities of sustaining char were being put on to brew against a parching ordeal scheduled not to end until the noonday gun. Afric's sunny fountains, on the other hand, had only recently begun to roll down their golden sand, and at 6am the buttons atop millions of alarm clocks were cool to the disconnecting touch: while, away to the east, the spicy breezes blowing soft o'er Java's isle were at that selfsame moment bearing the reverberations of a far mellower tocsin, as countless temple bells struck 11 to call the faithful to their television sets.

And all because it was 6pm in Hollywood, signifying that one billion inhabitants of Planet Earth were about to glue themselves to the 67th Academy Awards Ceremony. *One billion!* I know this figure to be accurate, because, within seconds, tuxedo after smirking tuxedo was bouncing on to the rostrum to tell me so, as if constant reiteration would somehow save the imagination from collapse.

It did not work. Yesterday, between 3am and 6, the imagination sat gobsmacked, not by the glutinous maunderings of this glittering prizewinner or that, or by the triumphal snippets entered in evidence of their genius, but by the fathomless speculation which each new announcement generated — a condition owing not a little to the fact that the room in which the imagination was sitting had a television set in one corner and a large globe in the other, and I very soon found that I could not stop my eyes flickering nystagmically between them, attempting, willy-nilly, to cope with the idea that two thousand million other eyes had simultaneously seen what they just had.

What in God's name could they have made of it? What did David Letterman's already esoteric Tinseltown wisecracks sound like in Hungarian subtitle? How many Uzbeks could with any confidence distinguish between all these megastar triumphs of the orthodontist's art caught in ring-twisting aspiration at their tables, when even buffs like me were flummoxed?

Who among the Sarawak viewership even knew what second-unit direction was? Was anyone in this rapt Borneo longhut or that Hezbollah gunpit in a position to explain to the others with any authority why Alan Bennett had been sidelined or Nigel Hawthorne robbed? As for Ulan Bator, the last time it had stayed up all night was for the World Cup final, and there had been no problem there, they had all kicked a ball about a bit, but how many Mongolians could take a convincing stab at guessing why the make-up team on *Ed Wood* should have won the right to thank its uncles and aunts and second cousins twice removed for everything, when the make-up team on *Frankenstein* had been left with no option but gamely to bite its cheated knuckle?

The truth, I fear, is that all these minutiae are globally irrelevant. The majority of my fellow-billion will have switched on for no better reason than that this was a competition with winners and losers. That is the kind of thing people want to watch, whether it is the Eurovision Song Contest, the Booker Prize, or indeed the Belgian Synchronised Swimming Final and the by-election results from Llandrindod Wells. It is not necessary to have any understanding whatever of what is being contested: we mark not how they played the game, but that they won or lost.

So do not be downhearted that Britain's principal achievement was for *Best Song Sung by a Drawing*. A billion viewers will have thought we did rather well. Oh all right, nearly a billion.

Fine tuning

CABINET ministers have been queueing up this week to lambast the BBC for alleged left-wing bias at the same time as the Conservative Party plucked one of the corporation's political team to join its staff at Central Office.

Helen Edwards, 29, left the BBC to become the party's broadcasting officer on Monday, just as newspapers reported Jonathan Aitken's attack on the so-called Blair Broadcasting Corporation. But Edwards, who admits that she is not a paid-up member of the Tory party, is no socialist either. "I am a Conservative and always have been," she says.

In her new job, Edwards will be responsible for persuading recalcitrant ministers to appear before the likes of John Humphrys, the presenter of Radio 4's *Today* programme, who was singled out by the Tories for his alleged favouritism towards Labour.

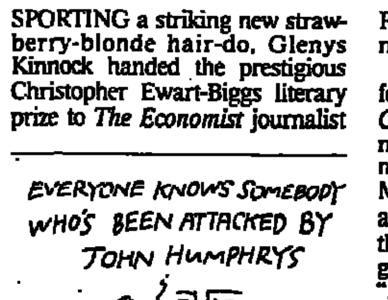
Earlier this month, a senior member of the BBC's political team, Joy Johnson, went to the Labour Party to become campaigns director. The BBC suggests that Edwards's appointment proves that it has a balanced approach to political reporting. "Joy Johnson to Labour: Helen Edwards to Central Office. Now that's partiality for you," says a spokesman for news and current affairs at the BBC.

Sister act

SPORTING a striking new strawberry-blonde hair-do, Glenys Kinnock handed the prestigious Christopher Ewart-Biggs literary prize to *The Economist* journalist Fionnuala O Connor on Monday night.

O Connor's acceptance speech for her book *In Search of a State: Catholics in Northern Ireland* made passing reference to her former colleague on *The Economist*, Mary Ellen Synon. It was Synon's affair with Rupert Pennant-Rea that forced him to resign as deputy governor of the Bank of England. "I'm just another Irish journalist on *The Economist* enjoying her 15 minutes of fame," she said.

EVERYONE KNOWS SOMEBODY WHO'S BEEN ATTACKED BY JOHN HUMPHRYS



Close contest

BRITISH disappointment at the Oscars was alleviated for television presenter Emma Freud by the simple pleasure of being seated near an international sex symbol. "Keanu Reeves was sitting right behind us," she explained. "It was the biggest thrill of my life."

Attending the awards ceremony on the arm of Richard Curtis, a nominee for his screenplay for *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, Freud feared the worst from the start. "We were put in the middle of a row, which was a bit of a giveaway," she said, wise to the Oscar tradition of seating winners near aisles. But her pessimism was severely tested whenever *Forrest Gump* was mentioned: "They kept saying, 'And the winner is: *Fo . . . rrest Gump*'," she said. "We kept thinking it might be *Fo . . . our Weddings and a Funeral*."

House proud

THE PRINCE of Wales, who admitted on Monday night to being a "potty" collector of urns and pots for his garden at Highgrove, Gloucestershire, has named a designer tree-house at his home after the royal palace in Edinburgh.

"It's in a holly bush, so we've called it Holyroodhouse," he told members of the National Trust at a lecture in London. After being badgered for a tree-house by his children, he commissioned a local architect. "I was damned if they were going to have something made of old tyres and planks of wood in my garden." The result is a curiously quaint construction redolent of a fairy-filled illustration by Arthur Rackham.

Getting on down: Rushdie

● *After his admission that he was "potty", the Prince of Wales could reasonably be described as "batty". According to* Country Life, *the Prince's Institute of Architecture is to open a Doric pavilion south of Hammersmith Bridge, in London, this week. Its purpose is to provide a rest home for dispossessed bats.*

Salman leap

SALMAN RUSHDIE is a regular on the capital's cocktail circuit, but you don't often see him down the disco. On Monday night at the launch party for Martin Amis's new novel, *The Information*, held in a west London working men's club, his extraordinary gyrations were the talk of literary London.

Ladies queued for the spectacle and their jaws dropped in astonishment — but they joined in nevertheless. The Rushdie wriggle is an unusual one-legged hop in a crouching position, arms whirling like a dervish. "It's been a long time since I went to a disco," he panted during a momentary musical break. "It's good fun, isn't it?" Appropriately for a man living under the threat of a fatwah, he was dancing to the strains of *Stayin' Alive* by the Bee Gees.

● *Notice in the porch of Clare parish church, in Suffolk: "Outing — no, not another in the succession of Peter Tatchell's exposures, but a coach trip to Framlingham . . ."*

P·H·S

هكذا من الأصل

MANCHESTER'S MESSAGE

A new educational opportunity for 'New' Labour

When Peter Kilfoyle, Shadow Education Minister, attends the prizegiving at his old school, he cannot fail to notice that the establishment is no longer open to children like him. St Edward's College, Liverpool, is one of the 119 former direct grant schools which were forced into the independent sector when Labour abolished the direct grant system in 1976. Mr Kilfoyle is not alone: Jack Straw also went to a direct grant school which is now private, and Michael Meacher, Shadow Overseas Development Minister, went to a private school on a state scholarship. Most of their colleagues attended grammar schools which are now comprehensive. Yet Labour still seems determined to deny poor but bright children the educational opportunities from which many of its senior spokesmen benefited.

The direct grant schools joined the private sector reluctantly. Many have since regained their wide social mix by taking a large proportion of poorer pupils on assisted places. Labour's plans to abolish this scheme too have sent the schools off on a hunt for other ways of financing their intake. Now Manchester Grammar, one of the country's top former direct grant schools, has said that it would like to rejoin the state sector, provided that it could still select the most academic pupils. Its richer parents would continue to pay fees.

The Prime Minister showed little enthusiasm for this move at Question Time yesterday, presumably because the cost per pupil of a Manchester Grammar place is nearly twice as high as in the state sector. Mr Major's Treasury-inspired indifference seemed unimaginative, since there could be many possible financial relationships between a former direct grant school and the State. But at least his Government, through the assisted places scheme, offers some poor pupils the chance of an excellent education. Labour would abolish assisted places, but would put nothing in their place.

The blurring of the sharp distinction between public and private in the provision of education ought to be a goal of "New" Labour. Nothing perpetuates the class system more in Britain than its educational apartheid. Little irritates the middle classes more than the all-or-nothing nature of private education. Unlike health, for instance, state education is not something that can be topped up with private provision. For those parents who have a choice, it is often between badly run, underfunded state schools and fearsomely expensive private schools. There is no middle way.

Because Labour is traditionally so hostile to independent schools, it is understandable (if misguided) that the party does not want to extract the brightest pupils from the state sector in order to send them to private schools. But it should be delighted to welcome back to the state system those beacons of excellence that used to be open to all, regardless of means. Instead, David Blunkett, Shadow Education Secretary, said yesterday that "it is important that we aim for a solution which is inclusive for all children rather than partially exclusive". In other words, Manchester Grammar would have to stop selecting its pupils by ability if it wanted to become a state school again.

If it did so, it would lose its shining academic reputation. Since it is certain to be massively oversubscribed, how else is it supposed to select? If it were by catchment area, houses close to the school would simply become affordable only by the rich. The middle classes are again automatic winners when pupils are selected by interviewing parents, as in many grant maintained schools today — including the one chosen by Tony Blair for his son. Labour wants to prove that it has moved beyond the politics of class, envy and anti-elitism that drove it in the 1970s and 1980s. Embracing the former direct grant schools, selection and all, would be a welcome start.

TWO KINDS OF NATION

Ways of understanding what makes us Britons

Today's conference on Britain's place in the world, held under the auspices of the Royal Institute of International Affairs and promoted by the Government, responds to a growing sense of anxiety about the way the national interest is defined. Its participants will ask themselves a series of questions as pressing as they are basic. Do we need a global and foreign security policy at all? What are Britain's economic interests abroad? How should we encourage good government overseas?

But, as Vincent Cable, the head of the institute's international economics programme, puts it in his background paper for the conference, "the role of Britain in the world ultimately comes back to how British people see themselves". The question of the national interest is inextricably linked with the question of national identity. To look outward with clear sight we must also look inward. Today's participants, including the Prime Minister, must do both. Nationhood and national interest cannot be reduced to a calculus bereft of myth, roots and passion.

There is a danger that today's speeches dwell exclusively on diplomatic propositions and ignore the broader opportunity for cultural exploration. Tomorrow we will report on whether those fears were justified. In the meantime the other approach to such questions is well exemplified in an intriguing new book, *Landscape & Memory*, by the historian Simon Schama. This is to be the subject of a *Times*/Dillons lecture by its author on April 11 (see page 6 for details).

In this broad survey of the links between culture and nature, Schama provides us with an alternative to purely rational analysis of national identity. We all carry "heavy cultural backpacks", an inheritance of "culture, convention and cognition". Landscape, in particular, is "the work of the mind. Its scenery is built up as much from strata of memory as from layers of rock". The Enlightenment has taught us to see the natural environment as a controllable resource to be harvested or preserved. Schama teaches us to see it as a construct of the imagination, a series of runes which, if correctly read, tell us something of our origins. The river Thames, he argues, has long been a symbol of English national identity, a fluvial line stretching from the mysterious Celtic-Druidical heart of the nation to the sea and the prospect of imperial power. Flowing from its sources the Isis and Tame through London, it bound the pastoral and mercantile hearts of the nation in an aquatic embrace. Tudor poets such as Edmund Spenser and William Camden revelled in this theme. Elizabeth I used the river as a stage for her personal cult.

The profound significance of the river has roots which are far deeper than mere sentiment. The same, as Schama shows, may be said of Britons' relationship with their forests, which have been symbolic, often simultaneously, of ancestral liberty, Angevin despotism and British naval might. Many visual symbols which we assume to be straightforward are shown by the author to be complex and multi-layered.

History of this kind is particularly welcome at a moment of national reassessment, of which today's conference is a part. There is a strong urge across the political spectrum to consider legalistic and constitutional change, making Britain more regional, more European or both. But books such as *Landscape & Memory* remind us that a society is an organic community as well as an aggregate of individuals connected by interests. Myth and symbol play as great a part in defining Britishness as institutions, laws and treaties. A sense of direction is essential to any nation; but it is nothing without a sense of roots.

LIFE IN THE BIG CITY

Gazelles from London Zoo return to the sands of Arabia

Regent's Park is a good few furlongs away from *al-Rub al-Khali*, the Empty Quarter of Arabia. Yet that parched and arid place took receipt yesterday of 45 sand gazelles from the Zoological Society. The creatures, now virtually extinct, are in fact indigenous to the Arabian desert, and the transaction represents a tidy triumph for London's zoo.

Modern society has come to question both the role of zoos and the morality of their conception. As our awareness of animals has grown, so too has our sensitivity to the conditions under which many zoos keep them. Where the attitude of the public was once merely that of unthinking wonderment, it is today more complex and demanding. And the sophistication of television programmes on the world's wildlife has served to bring into our often barren lives the haunting allure of animals in their own habitat.

These factors would have conspired fiercely against London's zoo had the institution itself not elected to respond to the spirit of the times. The conservation of imperilled species and the education of the young are now its foremost priorities. A Victorian menagerie no longer, the zoo has redefined itself as a compelling ark.

The zoo — an ecological auditor for future generations — has embarked on an extensive international programme for the rehabilitation of threatened species in their natural habitat. The return to the wild of these species, however, cannot be accomplished without programmes for practical conservation in the countries of origin themselves, and the zoo's conservation division does not ignore these concerns.

Although much of its work is focused on creatures such as the Golden lion tamarin, the Lowland anoa, the Blue-streaked lory, the Gila monster or the Mexican red-kneed bird-eating spider, our own prosaic backyard is not ignored. Of particular concern to the zoo is the English cricket, two types of which — the Field cricket and the Wartbiter — are in peril of extinction. In partnership with English Nature, the zoo's conservation division has worked painstakingly towards their release into the countryside.

The Wartbiters, described by one of the zoo's entomologists as "lovely, huge and green", get their name from an old Swedish practice — not now common — of using them to bite off human warts. The Field cricket, curiously, is not known to have been ever employed in primitive Swedish surgery. Yet like its more glamorous counterparts-in-fauna it receives the meticulous attention of the zoo's scientists. One need not look as far as the Empty Quarter for reasons to support the London Zoo.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Efforts to set fair electricity prices

From Dr Jack Cunningham, MP for Copeland (Labour)

Sir, As you make clear in today's leader, "The power of privatisation", regulators of the privatised utilities are at present all too easily misled by the companies they are supposed to be regulating, a fact which has led to electricity consumers in Britain being overcharged for the last five years.

You also correctly point out that changing the rules of the game in such a way as to compel the regulator to impose tougher price-caps, because the present ones are so lax, has the effect of reducing the incentives of management to increase efficiency.

As you note, it was only by catching a glimpse of Northern Electric's £560 million "war chest" that Professor Littlechild was alerted to the fact that consumers have been overcharged. This demonstrates the hopeless inadequacy of the present regulatory framework. What, I wonder, is going on inside the other privatised utilities, unobserved by the regulators?

BBC1's exposure on *Panorama* of the abuses of monopoly power in the water companies (report, March 27) provides part of the answer. Yet again there is evidence that a gullible regulator has allowed prices to final consumers to be set too high, whilst hundreds of millions of pounds earmarked for investment have found their way into company profit and loss accounts and executives' salary and share-option packages.

For good measure, you also throw in a gratuitous piece of scaremongering concerning the possibility of "windfall profits taxes under a Labour government", when Professor Littlechild's actions — under a Conservative government — amount to a windfall profits tax.

The Labour Party is committed to working for a dynamic and thriving economy which is characterised by fairness as well as competition. Handing out private monopolies and allowing consumers to be overcharged within a flawed regulatory framework is clearly not a responsible way for a government to behave.

Yours sincerely,
JACK CUNNINGHAM
(Shadow Secretary of State
for Trade and Industry),
House of Commons.
March 27.

From Mr John Devaney

Sir, Your leader on the electricity industry implies that prices are to fall in the future through the intervention of the regulator.

Even before the new pricing structure comes into play next week consumers are already benefiting from prices that are 4 per cent lower in real terms than in April 1990, when privatisation took place. This now makes UK electricity the fourth cheapest in Europe and represents just 2.6 per cent of average household expenditure.

Having taken service standards to unparalleled levels of performance, all of the 12 regional electricity companies can now offer the consumer a service which is vastly superior to that of pre-privatisation, yet far cheaper.

These facts reflect the success of privatisation so frequently omitted from the current debate surrounding an industry which has, in a relatively short space of time, brought tangible benefits to the public at no additional cost.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN DEVANEY,
President, Electricity Association,
(Chief Executive, Eastern Group),
30 Millbank, SW1.
March 27.

Blair on rights

From Ms Caroline Flint

Sir, However welcome Paul Johnson's praise of Tony Blair might be ("Blair talks the language of Thatcher", March 24; letters, March 28), he distorts the message. The Labour leader did not place duties above rights, he simply argued that with rights come *responsibilities*.

Tony Blair argues that we owe responsibilities to each other, to our community, to the children in our care. These ideas will be familiar to socialists and trade unionists and are not the property of Conservatives.

The Conservatives should fear Blair not because he is becoming one of them, but because he defines a socialism that can be understood and is part of our world. As Paul Johnson rightly suggests, a great many people will fall in behind his banner.

Yours faithfully,
CAROLINE FLINT,
256 Chiswick Village, W4.
March 28.

Room for expansion

From Mr Leonard Feltham

Sir, I was told many years ago that the infallible sign of middle age (John Diamond, Weekend, March 18) is when your wife tells you to pull your stomach in and you already have.

Yours faithfully,
LEONARD FELTHAM,
28 Dryburgh Road, Putney, SW15.

Business letters, page 25

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

Government aims on nuclear arms

From Professor Joseph Rotblat, FRS

Sir, The Secretary of State for Defence (letter, March 23) reaffirmed the Government's commitment to obtaining an unconditional and indefinite extension of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), but has failed to disclose any specific measures to persuade other states to accept such an extension.

Many states are opposed to it because they doubt that the nuclear states sincerely intend to fulfil their obligation to nuclear disarmament under Article VI of the treaty. Indeed, the UK nuclear policy — which (as stated by Mr Malcolm Rifkind in a speech in London on November 16, 1993) considers the value of nuclear weapons not "just in deterring the use of nuclear weapons by an adversary, but in actually preventing war" — is seen by many as incompatible with the commitment to nuclear disarmament.

While the achievement of a nuclear weapon-free world will take a long time, there are some specific measures that the Government can take towards it now. These measures should include the following:

1. Taking the initiative in putting a nuclear weapons convention (NWC) to abolish nuclear weapons on the agenda of the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva.
2. Declaring that, until the NWC is signed, the only purpose of the nuclear arsenals is to deter a nuclear attack, and persuading other nuclear-weapon states to make similar declarations.
3. Urging other nuclear-weapon states to agree on a no-first-use treaty, by which each undertakes not to be the first to use, or threaten to use, nuclear weapons against another.
4. Offering the expertise of the Aldermaston Atomic Weapons Establishment to the process of dismantlement of warheads, disposal of plutonium (the uranium problem is simple), and elaboration of a verification regime for the NWC.

These measures would go a long way to ensuring that the NPT continues after its 25-year term has ended.

Yours faithfully,
J. ROTBLAT,
8 Asmara Road, NW2.

From Air Commodore Alastair Mackie

Sir, Malcolm Rifkind's apologia for Britain's attitude towards the Non-Proliferation Treaty is as evasive and disingenuous as the plea by Lords Healey, Kennet and Mayhew for honest and positive action (letter, March 21) is definitive and convincing.

The Treaty (Article VI) calls for "good faith" in negotiating "effective measures" for "cessation of the nuclear arms race ... and nuclear disarmament". As to good faith, Britain's call for "indefinite and unconditional extension" (Queen's Speech, November 16, 1994) will have consequences far from what might be imagined. Instead of reducing the number of nuclear states the result would be to perpetuate the status quo of continuing violation enjoyed by the existing five. The true requirement is for a limited extension while another treaty to ban all nuclear weapons is created.

Mr Rifkind's version of effective measures seems to consist in withdrawing half our stock of free-fall bombs, all of which are obsolete anyway; no longer deploying Lance, an old tactical missile whose role ended with the Cold War; and lowering what he calls the "explosive power of the ... nuclear inventory".

The last assertion conceals what matters about the main item in the inventory. Trident, as the Commons Defence Select Committee's *Report on Trident* (May 17, 1994) put it, has "accuracy and sophistication" which "does, and was always intended to, represent a significant enhancement of the UK's nuclear capability".

Yours faithfully,
A. MACKIE
(Vice-President),
Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament,
162 Holloway Road, N7.

Oppression of Kurds

From Mr Raymond Painting

Sir, From March to December 1994, I worked for the United Nations Department of Humanitarian Affairs as a convoy co-ordinator in southern Turkey. I lived five kilometres from the Turkish/northern Iraq border in Turkey near a little town called Silopi in what, during better times, had been a camp for pilgrims going to Mecca but was then being used as a refugee camp for Kurds seeking asylum, and for Africans who had been arrested individually in cities and towns all over Turkey.

Because of the Turkish Government's avowed intent to "finish" the PKK (Kurdistan Workers' Party) the border area was swamped with Turkish army units. Some reports said that 100,000 troops were deployed.

During the summer and autumn of 1994 the Turkish air force would appear almost daily and bomb to the east of the camp I was living in, and thousands of people were chased from the hills into northern Iraq in fear of their lives. The same people, it would appear, are still being pursued by the Turks.

On March 22, I heard a Turkish Government spokesman state on television that innocent civilians are not being killed in the current operation. I ask myself, "how does he know?" Even the pilots dropping the bombs and the gunners firing the artillery do not know what they are hitting or whom they are killing. Having seen at first hand the standard of the Turkish military I think it is a good bet that the *only* people being killed are innocent civilians.

The idea that you can fight terrorists using conventional weapons is absurd. Killing and dispossessing innocent Kurds will only give the terrorists more support, and if the Turkish Government cannot see this then it is blind. The Turkish handling of the PKK problem and the Kurdish people is shameful — it is nothing but ethnic cleansing.

Yours sincerely,
RAY PAINTING,
Forest Hill, SE23.
March 27.

Symbolism in India

From Mr Richard White

Sir, The suggestion in your editorial of March 15, that so long as the new BJP/SS government in Bombay does nothing more "innocuous" than rename Bombay there will be "little cause for concern", misses the point. The reversion to the old Maratha name of Mumbai (report, March 25), the switching of the official language of the courts from Marathi to English, the erection of statues and observance of Hindu festivals may be only "symbolic" to you but to the people of India they are the basic elements that comprise communal identity.

The decision by the Raj to replace local vernaculars with English in the courts was controversial in its day but did much to overcome regionalist sentiment and facilitate the emergence of all-India politics. The violence that surrounded the destruction of the Babri Masjid at Ayodhya in 1992 bears testament to the power which symbols can exert on the faithful and in the alienation of minority groups.

The possible changes are indeed symbolic. That is the very reason why they pose a threat to India's future. The majority of Indians arguably care little about the plans for economic reform, but the change to Mumbai is something to which they can relate. Such a move may not affect the West, but for Indians it would spell the end of the secular politics that have held India together since independence.

"Divide and rule" ultimately failed for the British with the coming of partition. Why should it work for the Indians themselves without similarly bloody and divisive consequences?

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD WHITE,
The University of Wales,
Department of International Politics,
Penglais, Aberystwyth, Dyfed.

From Professor W. S. Allen

Sir, Your leader of March 15 views with some amusement the "renaming" of Bombay as Mumbai by the BJP. But in fact this is simply a reversion to what has always been the vernacular name of the city (derived probably from the patroness deity Mumba-devi).

The form Bombay is a Western corruption, most likely Portuguese in origin. The history of the name is copiously documented in the 1886 Hobson Jobson glossary, and more recently and succinctly in Nigel Hankin's *Hanklyn-Janklin* (Delhi, 1992), which reports the restoration of the old name by the mayor of the city in 1986.

Such a restoration is therefore no more laughable than that of Kanpur for the corrupted British Cawnpore (or of Beijing for Peking).

Yours faithfully,
W. SIDNEY ALLEN,
Trinity College, Cambridge.

Joseph Needham

From Miss Muriel A. Arber

Sir, Your obituary of Dr Joseph Needham (March 27) records his election to the Royal Society in 1941 but does not mention that in 1948 his first wife Dorothy was also elected FRS. This, I believe, was the first time that a husband and wife had both become Fellows of the Royal Society, and on being congratulated Dorothy said that she was glad to have been able to gratify Joseph's historical sense in this way.

Yours faithfully,
MURIEL A. ARBER,
18 Sherlock Close, Cambridge.

From Miss Margery Elliott

Sir, Your obituary does not mention Dr Needham's folk-dancing activities. He was a member (a founder member, I believe) of the Cambridge Morris Men and was also an enthusiastic country-dancer. I remember a clerihew from my wartime folk-dancing days in Cambridge:

Doctor Joseph Needham
Dances with philosophic freedom.
You must mind your toes if
You chance to dance with Joseph.

Yours faithfully,
MARGERY ELLIOTT,
58 Oakham Road,
Harborne, Birmingham.
March 27.

American English not so 'corrupt'

From Professor Stephen Haseler

Sir, You too readily congratulate (leading article, March 24) Prince Charles on his claim (report, March 24) that American-English has a "very corrupting" effect upon the language. Our proselytising Prince also argues that "it is impossible to overestimate the advantage the English language gives us in the world" as the figures [of English speakers] are "staggering".

Yet both the Prince and you might care to ask why English is doing so well throughout the world. Surely the primary cause is the reach and success of the American showbiz, "infotainment" and entertainment media which purvey the very American-English that is so derided. Quite simply, the world is still voracious for glimpses of the American way of life.

By contrast the British media and entertainment industry — the purveyors of English-English — seem able to provide only a limited cultural menu. They try to compete with the Americans: kings and queens, costume drama, English class humour, endless countryside scenes and Second World War tales are certainly interesting but for a worldwide audience remain somewhat provincial and limited.

We can sneer at American-English, but the worldwide success of the English language — from which we benefit — is the product of American, not British, popular culture.

The Prince might care to ruminate upon the proposition that if we had not been dominated for so long by the suffocating culture of royalty and nostalgia we might have produced a popular culture as alluring to the world's peoples as the more democratic and universal culture of our American competitors.

Sincerely yours,
STEPHEN HASELER,
Thackeray House, Ansdell Street, W8.
March 24.

Meat of the matter

From Mr John Tuckwell

Sir, Your report of March 23 blames the problems of Dewhursts on their inability to compete with the "high street supermarket giants". I am sure that Dewhursts, like any other butchers worth their salt, would be delighted, nay eager, to compete with high street supermarkets. The problem is that these are often not in the high street but out of town.

The authorities permit, indeed encourage, these out-of-town centres, while subjecting in-town shops to the latter-day Morton's Fork of ever-increasing costs and restrictions and an ever-decreasing customer base. When we have all gone, who then will pay the rates?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN TUCKWELL (Chairman),
Tuckwell (Butchers) Ltd,
37 High Street, Wanstead, E11.
March 24.

Doorstep delivery

From Dr P. Furniss

Sir, Last week I attended a conference in Brussels and during the evenings enjoyed the delights of its excellent restaurants. I was surprised at the amount of seafood on the menus in a place so far from the sea.

In contrast, at my central city hotel, I was amazed to be served tinned milk with my breakfast cereal; there was no fresh milk available, it seems, in a city that is the centre of the common agricultural policy.

I hope that we in Britain will strive to keep the doorstep delivery of fresh milk rather than be left with the tinned or powdered form.

Yours faithfully,
P. FURNISS,
10 Mile End Road,
Norwich, Norfolk.
March 27.

From Mr Philip H. Stunt

Sir, My father used to tell us children that when he was a boy, before the First World War, neighbours would loiter with shovels in case the milkman's horse delivered anything which could usefully be spread beneath their roses. So perhaps I should not have been astonished to find a leaflet from my enterprising milkman now offering to deliver, with the milk, bags of horse manure.

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP H. STUNT,
Alston, Moulsham Street,
Chelmsford, Essex.
March 27.

Over and out

From Professor Rhys Williams

Sir, Witty recorded messages on telephone answering machines brighten up the day. Our own (which I must confess we adapted from someone else's) is: "Hello. The Williams family is either out or pretending to be. If you want to leave a message ...".

Recently I heard one which was amusing without, I suspect, that being the intention: "Hello. This is the Open University. I'm afraid we're closed at present. If you want to leave a message ...".

Yours sincerely,
RHYS WILLIAMS,
35 Kent Road,
Harrogate, North Yorkshire.
March 27.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 28: The Queen this afternoon attended the Dedication of a Memorial Bell to Sir Gordon Richards at Kintbury Church, near Newbury, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for the Royal County of Berkshire (Mr John Henderson), Mrs Henry Chapman Pincher (President, *Friends of Kintbury Church*) and the Vicar (the Reverend Deborah Plummer).

Her Majesty met members of Sir Gordon Richards' family and afterwards unveiled a commemorative plaque.

The Earl of Carnarvon, accompanied by the Countess of Carnarvon, was in attendance.

Lady Abel Smith has succeeded the Hon Mary Morrison as Lady in Waiting to The Queen.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 28: The Duke of York this afternoon visited The Queen's Flight at Royal Air Force Benson, Oxfordshire.

March 28: The Princess Royal, President, The Princess Royal Trust for Carers, accompanied by Commander Timothy Laurence RN, this evening attended the St Bartholomew's Hospital Choral Society and Royal Philharmonic Orchestra Concert at the Royal Albert Hall, London SW7.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
March 28: The Prince of Wales, Patron, African Medical and Research Foundation, this morning received Mr Francis Howard (Chairman) and Mr Alexander Heroys (Director).

His Royal Highness later visited the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution and attended a Luncheon at Church House, Great Smith Street, London SW1.

The Prince of Wales this afternoon launched the World Monuments Fund in Britain at Spencer House, London SW1.

Dr Manon Williams was in attendance.

His Royal Highness this evening attended a Reception given by the Trustees of the Brogdale Horticultural Trust at St James's Palace.

The Prince of Wales, Patron, Atlantic Salmon Trust, and President, the Salmon and Trout Association, later attended a Dinner in aid of the North Atlantic Salmon Fund (UK) given by the Duke of Wellington at Apsley House, London W1.

Commander Richard Aylard RN was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
March 28: The Duchess of Gloucester this evening attended a Reception to mark the 60th Anniversary of the Founding of the League of Friends, the Royal Marsden NHS Trust at the Guards' Museum, Wellington Barracks, London SW1.

Mrs Michael Wigley was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE
March 28: The Duchess of Kent this morning visited the Lake District Search and Mountain Rescue Association and teams, the Post Graduate Centre, Furness General Hospital, Dalton Lane, Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria, and was met on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Cumbria (Mr James Cropper).

Her Royal Highness this afternoon opened the Endoscopy Suite, Furness General Hospital, Dalton Lane, Barrow-in-Furness, and later opened the Croasdell Wing, Ostley House Home for the Blind, Abbey Road, Barrow-in-Furness, and opened the Furness and District Magistrates' Courthouse, Abbey Road, Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria.

Mrs Julian Tomkins was in attendance.

Today's royal engagements

Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother will attend a luncheon with the City of London Sheriffs' Society at Saddlers' Hall at 1.00.

The Prince of Wales will attend a conference on Britain in the World at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre at 12.30.

The Duchess of Kent, as patron, will open the head office of the Cancer and Leukaemia in Childhood Trust, Wimpole Street, W1, at 11.50.

Birthdays today

Lord Justice Beldam, 70; Mr Henry Bellingham, MP, 40; Mr Richard Rodney Bennett, composer, 59; Miss Jennifer Capriati, tennis player, 19; Mr Duncan Davidson, chairman, Persimmon, 54; Mr James Diggle, classicist, 51; the Marquess of Hertford, 65; Mr Peter Hinchcliffe, co-founder, Iceland Frozen Foods, 48; Miss Margaret Howard, broadcaster, 57; Mr Eric Idle, actor and comedian, 52; Mr Jack Jones, CH, trade unionist, 82; Mrs Sheila Kitzinger, author, anthropologist and child birth educator, 66; Sir Arthur Knight, former chairman, Courtaulds, 78; Miss Sylvia Law, town planner, 64; Mr John Major, Prime Minister, 52; Mr Hugh Neill, Lord Lieutenant of South Yorkshire, 74; Sir John Paul, former Governor-General of The Bahamas, 79; Sir John Read, former chairman, TSB Group, 77; Miss Fiona Reynolds, director, Council for the Protection of Rural England, 37; Lord Ross, 68; Miss Anne Stoddart, diplomat, 58; Lord Tebbit, CH, 64; Sir John Vane, pharmacologist, 68; the Right Rev James Weatherhead, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, 64.

Lecture

Royal College of Physicians
Dr David Pyke delivered the Fitzpatrick lecture to the Royal College of Physicians of London yesterday at 11 St Andrews Place, NW1. Earlier a ceremony had been held for the admission of new members.

Receptions

British Red Cross
Prince Michael of Kent was the guest of honour at a reception for the British Red Cross held last night at the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, Forbes House, SW1. The Countess of Limerick, chairman of council, Mr John F. Gray, director of public affairs, and Mr Tony Spalding, Director of Public Affairs of Vauxhall Motors were the speakers.

Mrs Lars-Ake Nilsson
The Swedish Ambassador and Mrs Nilsson held a reception yesterday at their residence to launch the Raoul Wallenberg Appeal for the erection of a statue in London.

Centenary

Montgomery Exhibitions
On the occasion of the centenary of Montgomery Exhibitions, Mr Bryan Montgomery handed over a charitable donation to The Mayor's Fund at the centenary party held at the Business Design Centre, Islington, London. The cheque was received by Mr Andrew Morris, of the BDC, in the presence of 350 guests. Mr Leo Kelly, Chairman of Andry Montgomery Ltd, traced the 100 year history of the company from its origins in running a building exhibition at the former Royal Agriculture Hall, now the Business Design Centre, through to the present day's worldwide activities.

Latest wills

Lady (Eileen) Joseph, of Stanford in the Vale, Faringdon, Oxfordshire, widow of Sir Maxwell Joseph, founder of the food and drinks group Grand Metropolitan, left estate valued at £25,202,002 net. She left her estate mainly to relatives. Her husband died in 1982.

Edith Winifred **Gorlinsky**, of London W1, left estate valued at £1,698,246 net.
She left £31,000 and an annuity of £200 a week to personal legatees and the residue to the Army Benevolent Fund.

Daughter's moving tribute to former deputy editor of The Times

Memorial service for Louis Heren

By Alan Hamilton

LOUIS HEREN, a former deputy editor of *The Times* who died in January aged 75, was the most admired and successful foreign correspondent of his generation, the congregation at his memorial service heard yesterday. But his children thought more of him than that.

Addressing a packed congregation of family, friends, colleagues and rivals in St Bride's, mother church of the often ungodly parish of Fleet Street, Mr Heren's daughter Elizabeth movingly disclosed that even journalists can be human, and can be capable of immense family feeling, especially in adversity.

She recalled, as though writing him a letter, how her father, for many years this newspaper's distinguished chief correspondent in Washington, had been recalled to London to assume high executive office at a time when his wife had been diagnosed as suffering from multiple sclerosis, and his elderly mother had been felled by a stroke.

"I was too young to understand the impact of these sorrows, but as I became an adult I began to understand what type of love, loyalty and strength it takes to cope with life's burdens and cruel twists of fate. Although I have no idea what it must be like to march into battle and survive a war, your courageous spirit and brave heart gave me an idea of what it must be like to be a soldier — to carry out tasks without complaint, facing an unknown future and all the while retaining your sense of humour, your friendships and, I am told, your talent for making a wicked Martini."

She recalled how, during her phase of being a punk with pink hair, her father had taken her into his beloved Garrick Club and, confronted by distracted members, had proudly walked beside her as though nothing was amiss.

Ian Aitken, a close friend and one-time rival from *The Guardian*, said that Mr Heren had been such an outstanding correspondent in America because he genuinely liked Americans, having himself no trace of British class-consciousness or that back-to-front snobbery that sometimes colours the cockney character. He was a working-class lad from the slums of Shadwell whose mother ran a café by the gates of the London docks, yet he was no more self-educated than any of the Etonians or Carthusians who subsequently worked for him.

He had learnt to read and write good English from an inspired teacher at a local council school, Mr Aitken said. "*The Times* and its readers owe a considerable debt of gratitude to that teacher."

MARTIN BEDDALL

Louis Heren's son Patrick and daughter Elizabeth with Lord Rees-Mogg, a former Editor of *The Times*

Canon John Oates officiated and Father Kit Cunningham led the prayers at the service of thanksgiving. Lord Rees-Mogg read the lesson. Professor Peter Hennessy read an excerpt *Beduin at peace: Work of a desert patrol in south Jordan*, an article by Louis Heren which appeared in *The Times* of February 11, 1950. Mr Patrick Heren, son, read from *No Friends to Welcome Them*, his father's account of the earliest British settlers in North America.

Mr Patrick Williams, flute, played Debussy's *Syrinx* and the choir sang *I could have danced all night* from Rodgers and Hammerstein's *My Fair Lady* and Byrd's *Ave Verum*. Among others present were:

Mrs Sean O'Kane (daughter), Mr and Mrs Stephen Everington (son-in-law and daughter), Mrs Patrick Heren (daughter-in-law), Mr and Mrs William Heren brother and sister-in-law) Mr and Mrs William Wood (brother-in-law and sister), Mr Bernard Regan (brother-in-law), Mr and Mrs John Regan (brother-in-law and sister-in-law), Mr Paul Regan, Miss Rebecca Regan, Father Timothy Dean, Lady Rees-Mogg, the Hon Hugh Astor, Sir Paul Wright, Sir Robin Day, Sir Kenneth Bradshaw.

Sir Edward Pickering (Master of the Guild of St Bride and Vice-Chairman of Times Newspapers also representing the Chief Executive of News Corporation) with Mr Peter Stothard (Editor, *The Times*), Mr Brian MacArthur (executive editor, features), Mr David Hopkinson (deputy managing editor also representing the managing editor), Mr Nicholas Wapshott, Mr Philip Howard, Mr Anthony Howard, Mr Tim Austin, Mr Ivan Barnes, Mr Michael Knipe, Mr and Mrs Stewart Tendler, Mr Alan Hamilton, Mr John Young, Mr Roger Wood, Mr Chris Warman, Mr Iain Sutherland, Mr Denis Taylor, Miss Frances Gibb, Miss Philippa Toomey, Mrs Dessa Trevisan, *Mrs* Maria Herron.

Mr Iverach McDonald, Mr Ian McDonald, Mr Michael Hardy, Mr E C Hodgkin, Mr John Brian, Mr Nicholas Herbert, Mr James Evans, Miss Juliet Lygon, Mr Fred Emery, Mr and Mrs Trevor Fishlock, Mr Pat Davis, Mr R J Potts, Mr Colin Wilson, Mr and Mrs John Grant, Mr Richard Harris, Mr and Mrs Michael Leapman, Mr Geoffrey Samson, Mr Geoffrey Wansell, Mr George Vowles, Mr Barry Winkleman, Mr John Higgins, Miss Frances Newman, Mr and Mrs W Savill, Ms Caroline Moorehead, Mr and Mrs George Clark, Miss Mary Kernick, Mrs Pamela Dutton, Mr Colin Wilson, Mr G Ronay, Mr Robert Morgan, Mrs Sally Chichester, Mr Cyril Bainbridge, Mr Peter Evans, Mr Michael Hatfield, Mr Cyril MacDermott, Mr Roger Berthoud, Mr Alan Wood, Mr John Dickie.

Mr Marmaduke Hussey, Mr Donald Trelford, Mr Milton Shulman, Mrs Ian Aitken, Mr Geoffrey Goodman, Mr Frank Giles, Mr Anthony Butcher, QC, Mr Ellis Burke, Mr Hugh Dykes, MP, Mr Robert Edwards, Mr Simon Ralson, Mr Gerald Isaaman, Mr Leonard Miall, Mr Anthony Rota, Mr Walter Bell, Mrs S Cowan, Miss T Cowan, Mrs E Coll, Miss Janis Hardiman, Mr Alan Watkins, Mr Malcolm Slonims, Mr and Mrs E Bradley, Mr David Floyd, Mr Peter Smith, Mr David Bolton, Miss Sarah Thomas, Mr Paul Cox, Miss Barbara Peak, Mr R de Stacpoole, Mr Stephen Fay, Mr Eric Jacobs, Mr Richard Hodgson, Mr Sidney Weiland, Mr Tom Balston, Mr Jeremy Sinden, Mr Tony Thomas, Mr and Mrs Raymond Tuite, Mr and Mrs James Bishop, Mr David Barnes, Mr Ronald Harwood, Mr Donald Wilson, Mr A Kenneth Snowman, Mr Tony Hart, Mr Brian Basham, Mr Arthur Grimwade, Mr Mark Orr.

Miss Julia Langdon, Mr Geoffrey Parkhouse, Mr Norman Garrod, Mr Peter Williams, Mrs Carol Murray, Mr and Mrs R Tuckman, Mr Michael Rubinstein, Mrs Vera Miller, Mrs Susan Sutton, Mrs Ann Niven, Mr Michael Charlton, Miss Rachel Edwards, Mr William Powell, Mr Charles Yorke, Mr Peter Webb, Mrs Yvonne Cadwallader, Mr George Evans, Mr Donald Brett, Ms Jane Scott-White, Miss Janet Priestland, Mr Tom Pocock, *Mr* Alexander Llewellyn, *Mr* Maurice Mahoney, Mr Walter James, Miss Angela Daniell, Mr Stephen Bonarjee, Mr John Carswell, Mr Ian Norrie, Mr and Mrs John Turnbull, Miss Jane Mahoney, Miss Kate Cullinan, Mr Lionel Block, Mr Paul Gane, Mr James Bredin.

Mr George Bull (Royal Society of Literature), Mr David Chipp (also representing the Chairman of Associated Newspapers), Mr Bernard Shrimsley (associated editor, *Daily Express*), Mr Mike White (*The Guardian*), the Under Warden of the Stationers' and Newspaper Makers' Company, Mr Myron L Belkind (Associated Press), *Mr* Paul Hodgson (International Press Foundation), Mr William Tuohy (*Los Angeles Times*), Miss Isabel Quigley, Mr D Griffiths (Atlantic Council), Mr Nicholas G Metcalf (The Issaquena Trust), Mr Martin Harvey and Mr Paul Klennan (Garrick) and Mr Russell Burlingham (Thackeray Society and the Reform Club).

Sir John Horlick

A memorial service for Sir John Horlick was held yesterday in the Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks. The Rev Roy McAllen officiated. Mr Edward Granville (grandson) read *Chanson de Roland* and Mr Oliver Carson (grandson) read *Do not stand at my grave*. Mr Giles Weaver (nephew) and Mr John Stilwell gave addresses.

Last Post and Reveille was sounded by WO2 (BSM) K.J. Coates, Coldstream Guards, and the Lament was played by Pipe Major G. Webster, Scots Guards. Among others present were:

June Lady Horlick (widow), Sir James and Lady Horlick (son and daughter-in-law), Mr and Mrs Antony Granville, Mr and Mrs Rory Carson (sons-in-law and daughters), Alexander Horlick, Jack Horlick, Hugo Horlick, Miss Matilda Granville, Mr Toby Carson, Mr Jonathan Carson (grandchildren), Mrs Ursula Weaver (sister), Mr and Mrs John Wood (brother-in-law and sister-in-law), Mr James Horlick, Mr Charles Granville, Miss Felicity Granville, Mr Michael Cory-Wright, Mr Mark Cory-Wright, the Hon Mrs Edward Carson, Mr Kenneth Wagg, Mr and Mrs Anthony Wagg, Mr and Mrs Jeremy Wagg, Mr and Mrs David Wagg, Mr and Mrs Nicholas Howard, Mr Henry Howard, Mrs Graham Hewett, Mr Freddy Lever, Mrs B Mayhew and other members of the family.

The Earl of Dartmouth, Viscount Lewisham, Lady Kimball, Lord Carrington, KG, CH, Lord and Lady Alvingham, Lord and Lady Herschell, the Hon R Yerburgh, Sir Toby Clarke (representing the Standing Council of the Baronetage), *Sir* Ashley and Lady Martha Ponsonby, Sir Philip and Lady Duncombe, Sir Hamish Forbes, Sir John and Lady Lambert, Sir Brian McGrath, Mrs John Stilwell.

Major Mark A T Hibbert-Hingston (Regimental Adjutant, Coldstream Guards, representing the Colonel of the Coldstream Guards) with Brigadier Richard Heywood (Regimental Lieutenant-Colonel representing the Coldstream Guards), Lieutenant-Colonel W R Corbould (Coldstream Guards Association), Major-General C S Wallis-King (president, Windsor branch) with Brigadier and Mrs C M A Mayes.

Major Timothy Tufnell, the Rev His Honour Christopher and Mrs Lea, Major Michael Lycett, Mr and Mrs Richard Lumley, Mr Charles Parker, Mr Nicholas Wood, Mr Raleigh Trevelyan, Mrs David Curling, Mr and Mrs Henry Stilwell, Mr Charles Stilwell, Dr John Treasure, Mrs Michael Clarke, Mr R Laurie, Mrs Christopher Elwes, Major Alastair Bagnall, *Miss* Charlotte Duncombe, *Mr* J Floyd, *Mrs* J Forbes, Mr Charles Seconde, Mr Andrew McLaren, Mr and Mrs David Duncombe, Mr David Hymen (representing Flemings), Mr Tony Selman (SmithKline Beecham), Mr David Robinson (Frere Cholmeley Bischoff) and Mr Colin Mackay (Sotheby's).

Dinners

The Speaker
The Speaker held a dinner in Speaker's House last night in honour of Mr Habib Boulares, President of the National Assembly of Tunisia, and Mrs Boulares. The Tunisian Ambassador and Mrs Lessir were also prsent. The other guests were:
Mr Michael Morris, MP, and Mrs Morris, Mr David Ashby, MP, and Mrs Ashby, Mr Alex Carlile, QC, MP, and Mrs Carlile, Mr Simon Coombs, MP, and Mrs Coombs, Mr Bill Etherington, MP, and Mrs Etherington, Mr Roy Hughes, MP, and Mrs Hughes, Mr William Powell, MP, and Mrs Powell, Mr Ernie Ross, MP, and Mrs Ross, Mr Ian Taylor, MP, and the Hon Mrs Taylor, Mr David Young, MP, Mrs Houda Kanoun, Mr Taieb Mohsni, Mr Moncef Hadidane, Mr Simon Coltis, Mr Mark Ellam, Mrs Sue Geddes, Canon and Mrs Donald Gray, and Mr and Mrs Nicolas Bevan.

The Maccabeans
Sir Ivan Lawrence, QC, MP, was the guest speaker at the annual dinner of The Maccabeans held last night at the Savile Club. Lord Justice Balcombe, president, was in the chair.

The Chartered Association of Certified Accountants
Mr John Moore, FCCA, President of the Chartered Association of Certified Accountants, presided at the annual dinner held last night at Guildhall. The guests included:
The Ambassador of Hungary, the Ambassador of China, the High Commissioners for Malta, Zambia, Nigeria and Malaysia; the Ambassador of Slovakia, the High Commissioners for Botswana and Zimbabwe; the Ambassador of the Czech Republic, the High Commissioners for Kenya, Guyana, Belize, Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, Ghana and Malawi; the Commercial Counsellor at the Embassy of Poland, the President of the Association of Accountancy Bodies of West Africa, the Secretary General of the Federation des Experts Comptables Europeens, the Earl and Countess of Limerick, Lord Barnett, the Chairman of the Board of Inland Revenue and the Chief Accountancy Adviser to the Treasury.

Winchester College

The following music awards have been offered for September 1995 (names in alphabetical order):

Music Scholarships
J.S. Birchall (St George's School, Windsor); M.B. Chapman (King's Junior School, Canterbury); S. Mumford (Walhampton School, Lymington); R.T.J. Wheater (St John's College School, Cambridge), J.S. Wong (German Swiss International School, Hong Kong).

Mozart Bi-Centenary Prize
A.C. Hall (Hazelwood School, Limpsfield); R.E. James (Lockers Park, Hemel Hempstead); T.M. Vickers (Brambletye, East Grinstead); C. Wong (Winchester College).

Election

Dr Naren Patel, consultant obstetrician/gynaecologist and director of obstetric services at Dundee Teaching Hospital NHS Trust, has been elected President of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS:
John Tyler, 10th American President 1841-45, Charles City County, Virginia, 1790; Edward George Stanley, 14th Earl of Derby, Prime Minister 1852, 1858-59 and 1866-68, Knowsley Park, Lancashire, 1799; Sir Edwin Lutyens, architect, London, 1869; Sir William Walton, composer, Oldham, 1902; Edward Burra, painter, London, 1905.

DEATHS:
Thomas Coram, philanthropist, London, 1751; Emmanuel Swedenborg, philosopher, London, 1772; Charles Wesley, hymn writer, London, 1788; Maria Fitzherbert, morganatic wife of King George IV, Brighton, 1837; John Jacob Astor, fur trader and financier, New York, 1848; John Keble, theologian, Bournemouth, 1886; Georges Seurat, painter, Paris, 1891; Sir Charles Stanford, composer, London, 1924; Margaret McMillan, educationist, Harrow, 1931; Maxfield Parrish, painter, Vermont, 1966; J. Arthur Rank, 1st Baron Rank, industrialist and film magnate, 1972; Carl Orff, composer, Munich, 1982.

Henry VI's Lancastrian forces were defeated by the Yorkists at the Battle of Towton securing the crown of England for Edward IV, 1461.

The Albert Hall was opened by Queen Victoria, 1871.

Captain Robert Scott, storm-bound in a tent near the South Pole, made the last entry in his diary "... the end cannot be far ..", 1912.

The last American troops left Vietnam, 1973.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr C.S. Codrington and Miss S.J. Style
The engagement is announced between Charles, younger son of Mr and Mrs James Codrington, of Hereford, and Sarah Juliette, younger daughter of the late Mr Michael Style and of Mrs Style, of Barnes, London.

Mr C. Duchenne and Miss J. Mazzawi
The engagement is announced between Charles, only son of the late Charles Emile Duchenne, Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur, and of Mrs Irene Duchenne, of Hitchin, Hertfordshire, and Josephine May, elder daughter of Professor and Mrs Musa Mazzawi, of Stratfield Mortimer, Berkshire.

Mr C.A. Gillum and Miss A. Koch
The engagement is announced between Christopher, youngest son of Mr and Mrs John Gillum, of Holwell Manor, Hatfield, and Annegret, daughter of Herr and Frau Joachim Koch, of Gera, Germany.

Dr J.W.A. Millar and Miss S.M. Lockhart
The engagement is announced between John, younger son of Professor and Mrs I.T. Millar, of Keele, Staffordshire, and Susan, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs D.J. Lockhart, of Carshalton Beeches, Surrey.

Mr S.J. Mitchell and Miss A.G. Oxley
The engagement is announced between Sam, younger son of Mr and Mrs Simon Mitchell, of Bramerton, Norfolk, and Georgina, only daughter of the late Mr John Oxley and of Mrs Oxley, of Gazeley, Suffolk.

Mr A.M. Newton and Miss E.L. Phillips
The engagement is announced between Myles, son of Mr Anthony Newton, of Coxes Farm, Cherington, Gloucestershire, and Mrs Michael Hoskins, of Ashley Manor, Tetbury, Gloucestershire, and Emma, daughter of Mr Michael Phillips, of London, and Mrs David Robson, of Tourrettes-Sur-Loup, France.

Mr P.M.J. Scott and Miss P.J. Hughes
The engagement is announced between Philip, elder son of Dr and Mrs Ian Scott, of Geneva, Switzerland and Portstewart, Northern Ireland, and Penelope, elder daughter of Brigadier and Mrs 'Bugs' Hughes, of Boldre, Lymington, Hampshire.

Mr J.C. Stuart and Miss E.V.E. Reader
The engagement is announced between James, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Bill de Lucy, of Toad Hall, Gedding, Suffolk, and Victoria, youngest daughter of Mrs Mary Stevens, of Kingsbrooke, Staplehurst, Kent, and Mr John Reader, of Northampton.

Weavers' Company

Sir Ronald Miller, Chairman of Dawson International, presented the Weavers' Company's annual textile awards yesterday at Haberdashers' Hall. Mr Clive Anderson received the Young Weaver of the Year award and the Weavers' Company medal and prize went to Mr L St J. Tibitts. Manchester University Institute of Science and Technology and the Scottish College of Textiles received technology awards. The Royal Society of Arts, Texprint and the British Fabric Association received design awards and the London Guild of Weavers received a craft award. Sir Richard Baker Wilbraham, Upper Bailiff of the Weavers' Company, welcomed the guests.

Church news

The Rev Canon John Maybury, Assistant Curate, St John, Locksheath (Portsmouth): to retire as from October 7.

The Rev Cyril Stevens, Rector, Rendham w Sweffling (St Edmundsbury and Ipswich): retired as from January 11.

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Which of you is wise or learned? Let him give practical proof of it by is right conduct, which the modesty that comes of wisdom.
James 3 : 13 (REB).

BIRTHS

AMBROSE - In Kuala Lumpur, on 24th March, to Laini and Gerald, a daughter, Alissa Maryam.

BERTIE - On March 27th 1995, to Catherine (née Mason-Hornby) and David, a daughter, Charlotte Iona Rose.

BIRKIN - On 23rd March, to Anna-Mei (née Chadwick) and Michael, a daughter, Sophie Mei, a sister for Kate and Charles.

BUNTING - On 25th March, to Jilly (née Carey) and Mark, a daughter, Sophie Elizabeth, a sister for Jack.

CALLAWAY - On March 26th 1995, to Helen (née Little) and Hugh, a daughter, Lauren Alice.

CAMPBELL - On March 25th at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, to Emma (née Leahy) and Gary, Zoe Grace, a sister for Alexander and Eliza.

DEAR - On March 15th in New York, to Janie (née Orr Ewing) and Paddy, a daughter (Arabella Mimi) a sister for Frederick.

FAIRBAIRN - On 22nd March 1995, to Sarah (née Griffin) and Robert, a wonderful son, Jack Edmund Brooke, a brother for Imogen.

GOODMAN - On 28th March 1995, to Sarah (née Hewitt) and Jonathan, a son, Matthew Thomas Ludlow, a brother for Elizabeth.

HAYMAN - On March 26th at St George's Hospital, to Richard and Clair, a beautiful daughter, Victoria Margaret.

JOHNSON - On March 27th, to Annabel (née Saunders) and Christopher, a son, Luke Geoffrey, a brother for Rory.

KRATT - On 15th March 1995, to Tamsin and David, a son, Frederick Alexander James, a brother for Harriet.

MARSH - To Guy and Geraldine at North Herts NHS Trust a son, Scott Richard, a brother for Victoria Anne, on 27th March 1995.

POLHILL - On March 21st, to Claire (née Johnson) and Julian, a daughter, Georgina Elizabeth Grace, a sister for Harry and Eleanor.

PRESTON - On March 26th, to Annabel (née Davies) and Nicholas, a daughter, Harriet Frances.

SIMONS - On March 25th at Watford Hospital, to Anne (née Wilson) and Richard, a son, George William Richard.

SMITH - On 27th March, to Karen and Craig, a beautiful daughter, Charlotte Elizabeth.

TONKIN-COLLINS - On March 27th, to Jilbert and Mikey, a precious son, Jake Samuel, a bit of a lad for Jazz and Hattie.

DEATHS

BENGANI - Alfred Pascual, spanish republican exile, cartoonist and graphic designer, on 26th March in his 91st year, very peacefully in his sleep at home. Funeral enquiries to 0171 729 3898.

BOURNE-PATERSON - On 25th March 1995, Robert A. Bourne-Paterson, MA, FCA, aged 91, peacefully at The Gavin Astor Nursing Home, British Legion Village, Aylesford, Kent. Late of Lowndes Square, London. Husband of the late Clare, former member of S.O.E. French Section. General Manager I.C. Gas Association. Funeral will take place at Vinters Park Crematorium, Maidstone, on Monday 3rd April at 10.30am. All enquiries to his niece Mrs N.H. Kent c/o Pickard & Eeale, tel: (01622) 677155.

BRYANT - On 25th March 1995, in her 90th year, Helen Bryant, late of Henfield, Sussex. A loyal and much loved friend. Funeral today, Wednesday 29th March, at the Downs Crematorium, Brighton at 2.30 pm. Donations to the Royal National Institute for the Blind may be sent to R. Vinall, Neptown, Henfield.

DEATHS

BUTLER - Antonia, on March 18th. Much beloved daughter of Robert and Catherine, dearest sister of Nicholas and Victoria, who will be missed and loved forever. Funeral Service at St Michael's Church, Sunninghill, Ascot, on Tuesday 4th April at 2 pm. Flowers please to the Church.

CAMPBELL - Eric Raymond (Ray) O.B.E. passed away peacefully aged 67 years. Beloved husband of Sheila and father to Murray, Marian and Valerie. His warmth, generosity and humour will be sadly missed. The funeral service will take place on Tuesday 4th April at The Downs Crematorium Main Chapel at 2 pm. Family flowers only please, but donations if desired to a charity of your own choice. All enquiries to the Co-operative Funeral Service, 133 London Road, Brighton, tel: (01273) 607276.

CHITTY - Passed away 27th March in hospital, at Bishop's Stortford, Hester Vaughan aged 93 years. Wife of the late Erik Chitty. The funeral service is to be held on Monday 3rd April 1995 at St Michael's Church, Bishop's Stortford at 2.30 pm followed by cremation. Family flowers only please. Donations should be made payable to Mencap and sent to Daniel Robinson and Sons Ltd., 79/81 South Street, Bishop's Stortford, Herts. CM23 3AL. tel: (01279) 655477.

CORBIN - On 24th March, peacefully after a long illness bravely borne, Barbara Ermyne Corbin (née Davies) aged 81. Widow of Col. C.J. Corbin CBE, much loved mother of Sue (deceased), David and Sally and beloved grandmother. Funeral at All Saints Church, Winterslow Thursday 30th March at 2.15pm followed by private cremation. No flowers please, but donations to SSAFA, Salisbury, Wilts.

DEATHS

DROWER - On Monday 27th March, John Michael (Mike) died peacefully at Queen Mary's University Hospital, Roehampton. Husband of Barbara who he survived and father to Katharine and Ann, father-in-law to Tony and Michael, grandfather to Georgie, Vicky, Christopher and Beny. There will be a simple funeral service at St Mary's, Wimbledon, on Monday 3rd April at 1.30pm. Donations to the Alzheimer's Society. Flowers to Ashtons, 140 Alexandra Road, Wimbledon, London SW19.

FETHERSTONHAUGH - On 25th March 1995, peacefully, Dora Victoria Elizabeth Fetherstonhaugh (née Carter) aged 97 years, much loved and sadly missed by her son Michael, daughter-in-law Helen, and grandsons Tristram and Patrick. Funeral Service at St Nicholas Church, London W4, on Monday April 3rd at 12.15 pm. Burial in St Nicholas Cemetery. Funeral directors: Holmes & Sons, 92 Whitton Road, Hounslow (081-572 3277).

FREELAND - On March 25th, peacefully at Woodcote Grove Nursing Home, Surrey, Jessie McRobie (née Brown) aged 88, much loved wife of the late James Courlay (Jimmy) and devoted mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral Service Monday April 3rd, 11.30 at The Surrey & Sussex Crematorium, Worth. Flowers and enquiries to W.A Truslove & Son Ltd, 118, Carshalton Road, Sutton, Surrey, SM1 4RL.0181 642 8211

GARDNER - On 25th March 1995, James Gardner 'G', CBE RDI FRCA, FCSD, aged 87. Private cremtion (no flowers). Donations to Artists' General Benevolent Institution, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1V 0DJ.

DEATHS

GASKELL - On March 24th, at Sussex Private Clinic, peacefully after a struggle against many complications, Doctor Thomas Frohock (Tom) aged 79. An illustrious and brilliant scientist, much respected husband, father and grandfather. Memorial service to be held at St. Peter's, Old Town, Bexhill-on-Sea on 3rd April, at 2:30 pm. Family flowers only, donations if desired to The Stroke Association, C.H.S.A. House, Whitecross Street, London EC1Y 8JJ.

GREGOR - On 26th March 1995, peacefully at home, Douglas Bartlett Gregor. Loving husband of Lelia, father of Paul and Cynthia, father-in-law of Andy. The funeral service will be held on Friday 31st March, 11.30am at the Church of Ss. Peter and Paul, Abington, Northampton. Family flowers only. Donations if desired for The Stroke Association may be sent please to B. Hollowell and Son and W.K. Burbidge Funeral Directors, 148 Beech Avenue, Northampton, NN3 2JN.

HALL - On March 27th, peacefully at home, (Jock) Robert Aikman Hall M.B., Ch.B. Leeds, F.R.C.S. London, aged 87 years. Husband of Jean, father of Caroline and Robin and grandfather of six. Funeral service and cremation at York Crematorium on Monday 3rd April at 11.30am. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, to St Leonards Hospice, York.

HARDWICK - On March 25th, peacefully in Tunbridge Wells, Alan, in his 88th year. Dearly loving and beloved husband of Freda' and father of the late Julia and Gaye. Cremation at the Tunbridge Wells Crematorium on Monday April 3rd at 3.30 pm. No flowers. Donations to Chailey Heritage, East Sussex.

DEATHS

HEAL - Anthony Standerwick, FRSA, Hon. FCSD, Hon. FCGI, on 25th March 1995, aged 88. Father of Ambrose and Oliver, grandfather of Felix. Funeral at Holy Trinity Church, Penn, Friday 31st March 1pm. Flowers to Stuart Price Funeral Service, 13 Hill Avenue, Amersham, Bucks. HP6 5BD, tel: (01494) 434484 or donations to the Worshipful Company of Furniture Makers Charitable Funds, 30 Harcourt Street, London W1.

HILL - On March 25th 1995 at Filey, Ethel Mary (née Weldon), widow of Wilfred Hinchley of Scarborough, Yorkshire and widow of Stanley Hill of Ilkeston and Heanor, Derbyshire. Service at St Oswald's Church, Filey, on Monday 3rd April at 1.30pm, followed by private cremation at Woodlands, Scarborough. No flowers please. Donations to British Heart Foundation. Enquiries to A. Haxby & Sons, Filey, tel: (01723) 512216.

HOLDRUP - On Tuesday 28th March 1995, Vera Frances passed away, peacefully, at her son's home. Wife of the late Gordon and mother of Jeffray. Funeral Service at West Herts. Crematorium, Garston on Monday 3rd April 1995 at 3.30 pm. All are welcome, no flowers by request but donations, if desired, to the Macmillan Fund.

HURST - On 26th March 1995, peacefully at home in Clapham, after a long illness fought with great courage, Jacqueline Joan aged 44. Dearly loved wife of Patrick and loving mother of Rebecca, William and James. Beloved daughter of Jack and Joan. Funeral Service at Holy Trinity Church, Clapham Common, on Monday April 3rd 1995 at 1pm followed by private cremation. Family flowers only please. Donations to Trinity Hospice, 30 Clapham Common North Side, London SW4 0RN. (0171) 622-9481.

KNAPP - On March 26th, Angela Marion aged 71, of Broadmayne, nr. Dorchester. Cremation private. Donations to Macmillan Nurses or Joseph Weld Hospice, Dorchester.

LAMONT SMITH - On March 27th 1995 at St Peter's Hospital, Chertsey, Simon Gilbert, beloved husband of Pat, father of Tim and Caroline. Private funeral. Donations if desired to 'St Peter's Hospital I.T.U.' c/o Woking Funeral Service, 119-121 Goldsworth Road, Woking, Surrey GU21 1LR.

LEADLAY - On March 27th, 1995, peacefully at St Barnabas Hospice, Worthing, Sheila Marguerite Teresa, aged 43 years. Greatly loved daughter of Pat (née Coleman) and the late Kenneth Rupert Simpson Leadlay, sister of Brian and Peter. Sadly missed by family and friends. The funeral service will take place at St Michaels R.C. Hayling Rise on Friday 31st March at 1.30 pm. Flowers or donations if wished to St Barnabas c/o H.D. Tribe Ltd., 130 Broadwater Road, Worthing, West Sussex. Telephone: (01903) 234516.

MUNYARD - Basil John peacefully on March 26th at the Royal Star and Garter Home, Richmond, Surrey, aged 74. Funeral Service 2pm Monday 3rd April at All Saints Church, Fulham. Flowers or donations for the Royal Star and Garter Home to: Brain & Gamble, 601 Fulham Road, London SW6 5AU.

PARLETT - Lyall, peacefully at Pinewood, St Helier, Jersey, in his 85th year, beloved husband of Kitty, son of Sir Harold and Ethel, brother of Hedley and Yvonne, dear father of Michael and grandfather of Lucinda and Clara. Relatives and friends wishing to attend the funeral service, are invited to meet at the crematorium, Westmount Road, St Helier, Jersey, on Friday 31st March 1995 at 3pm. Family flowers only please. Donations in lieu may be sent to St Peter's Parish Church, c/o The Rectory, St Peter, Jersey, C.I. The family request no letters please. Enquiries to Pitcher and Le Quesne Ltd., F/D. tel: (01534) 33330.

MOORE - Yvonne, aged 40. Died 22nd March at St Thomas's Hospital.

PENWARDEN - Peter, Priest. On 25th March 1995 in Salisbury, late of Southwark Cathedral. Funeral service on Monday 3rd April, 1995 at Salisbury Cathedral at 2.45 pm. No flowers please. All enquiries c/o I.N. Newman Ltd., Funeral Directors 01722 413136.

ROCHE - Died peacefully after an illness on 23rd March, Dr. Patrick Joseph Lindsay. Buried 24th March Sant Julia de Loria, Andorra.

SEATON - On March 24th, Charles Albert aged 84 years. For many years on the staff of 'The Spectator'. Sadly missed by his friends. Funeral Service at the Golders Green Crematorium on Wednesday April 5th at 12 noon. Donations, in lieu of flowers, to the Mayhew Animal Home and Clinic, Trenmar Gardens, London NW10 6BJ, would be appreciated.

TANNER - Carrying us into British Summer Time, Adrian Glen Tanner, surgeon, died on Sunday March 26th at home aged 46, from a malignant brain tumour. Cherished husband and devoted father of Rufus and Ruaridh, loved by all fortunate enough to know him, friends, family, colleagues and patients. Funeral Service on Friday 31st March at 1.30 pm at St John the Baptist Church, Greenhill, Harrow, then 3.15pm at Breakspear Crematorium, Ruislip. Family flowers only or donations to Chistopher Wickenden Funeral Services, Hanwell, tel: (0181) 579-7176. Children welcome.

WARRACK - On Monday 27th March 1995, peacefully in Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, Jean Buchanan Warrack, aged 91 years, beloved wife of the late Graeme Warrack, dearly loved and loving mother of Mary, Bill and Liz, and darling Dag to her seven grandchildren. Service at the Church of St John the Evangelist, Princes Street, Edinburgh, at 11.30 am on Friday 31st March, followed by private cremation. Family flowers only.

WEST - On March 26th after a short illness, Norman Henry West MBE, dearly loved husband of the late Peggy. The funeral service will be at St Lawrence Church, Effingham, on Monday April 3rd at 12.15pm, followed by cremation at Randalls Park Crematorium, Leatherhead. Family flowers only but donations, if desired, to Princess Alice Hospice and Institute of Cancer Research c/o L. Hawkins & Sons, 2 Highlands Road, Leatherhead, KT22 8ND.

WESTWOOD - On March 28th 1995, peacefully at his home in Bexhill, Ken, aged 82 years. Dearly beloved husband of Dorothy. Cremation at Eastbourne Tuesday April 4th at 3.15pm. Donations to Pestalozzi.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

COBBOLD - A Memorial Service to give thanks for the life of Jocelyn Cobbold will be held at All Saints Church, Brenchley, Kent, on Wednesday April 26th 1995 at 3 pm.

GROSS - The Memorial Service for Mrs Catherine Elliott Gross will be held at St Columba's Church, Pont Street, London SW1, on Tuesday 4th April 1995 at 12 noon.

IN MEMORIAM – WAR

AGAZARIAN - Jack Charles Stanmore, F/Lt. Royal Air Force V.R., murdered 29th March, 1945, Flossenberg; and Noel le Chevalier F/O Royal Air Force V.R., killed in action 16th May, 1941, Cyrenaica.
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BIRTHDAYS

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY to the Prime Minister, John Major. Best wishes. Nilesh Parekh

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مكتبة الأهل

OBITUARIES

ANTHONY HEAL

Anthony Heal, chairman of Heal & Son, 1952-81, home furnishers, died on March 25 aged 88. He was born on February 23, 1907.

IN A lifetime of involvement with the furniture trade, Anthony Heal strove to maintain and further the standards of design and quality with which his father, Sir Ambrose Neal, had made the Tottenham Court Road store, *Heal's, famous. His own working* association with Heal's — founded by his great-great grandfather John Harris Heal in 1810, and from the reign of George V bed-maker to kings, queens and princes — had begun 65 years ago when he joined the family firm after a furniture trade apprenticeship. It continued until the takeover of Heal's by Habitat/Mothercare in the 1980s, by which time he was head of the firm.

Heal's other great passion in life was vintage sports cars, and he was a familar sight on the roads, defying all weathers in one or other of his open *Sunbeams on his way to* Vintage Sports Car Club (VSCC) rallies and events. He was a recognised authority on the racing heyday of Sunbeam cars and his book, *Sunbeam Racing Cars — 1910-1930* (1989), was the standard work on the subject. But he was not merely addicted to the motoring past. He had also tangled in "hotter" company, entering the Le Mans 24-hour race in 1949 in an Aston Martin.

Anthony Standerwick Heal was educated at Leighton Park School, Reading, from where he went for further study at Grenoble University and in Munich. *Returning* to Britain he served an apprenticeship in the workshops of Gordon Russell in Broadway, Worcestershire, 1927-29, before joining the family firm in London.

Appointed a director of the company in 1936, he soon thereafter became managing director, concentrating on maintaining the beautifully designed *furniture through which the firm had* established its pre-eminence in the field. As chairman from 1953 he was responsible among other things for the company's advertising and promotions. From 1981 to 1984 Heal was head of the business, Heal & Sons Holdings.

But in 1983 the firm, then suffering growing identity and trading problems, and losses in a climate catering increasingly for younger tastes, was bought by Sir Terence Conran's Habitat/Mothercare group.

Heal continued his association for another year, working on the collation *of the company's archives which form* a valuable contribution to the historiography of furniture making in Britain. The Heal archive was, in fact, recently given to the Victoria and Albert Museum.

Heal finally retired in 1985 to devote himself to his many other interests. (In 1990 Heal's became independent again after a management buyout, though *the original family interest was not* resumed. It lost its Royal Warrant in 1991.)

Heal had many appointments in the furniture trade outside his own company. Among them was his mastership of the Furniture Makers' Guild: his membership of the Council of Industrial Design and his membership of the City & Guilds of London Institute. He was much concerned with technical education in the furniture industry and in 1965 was awarded the Royal Society of Arts bicentenary medal for design management.

His *principal* interest outside the furniture industry, old sports cars, had been a ruling passion since his youth. In 1931, before the foundation of the VSCC, he had gained a silver medal driving a Frazer Nash in the Land's End trial, taking another in the Land's End event of 1935. He relished these early long-distance trials, taking the Premier Award in the 1935 London-*Exeter trial, with his* OE 30/98 Vauxhall, followed by a silver medal with the same car in the 1936 London-Edinburgh trial.

When the VSCC was formed in 1934 Heal was immediately attracted, driving his Vauxhall in the 1936 Chiltern *trial and thereafter participating in* a variety of speed and endurance events. When the Edwardian section of the VSCC was formed he was one of the outstanding performers, in a 1910 10-litre S61 Fiat that he had discovered abandoned and restored to running condition. He was to demonstrate that the Fiat was about the fastest of the Edwardian racers and when he married, in 1941, he used the giant Italian car as the bridal carriage.

During the war he served in the Home Guard, acquiring at the same *time a number of* interesting cars, including three marvellous Sunbeams: a 1914 TT; a straight-eight 3-litre TT; and a 3-litre twin-cam super-sports Sunbeam that was to remain his favourite car and which he drove long distances almost to the day when he *was taken ill.*

He also had a 1909 Napier and his wartime article *The First to Wear the Green* celebrated the racing history of the make. Heal's knowledge of Sunbeam history was unmatched and his book on the subject is definitive.

His driving skills would, in fact, have made Heal a formidable racing driver. Indeed, with Dudley Folland, he had a go at the Grand Prix d'Endurance at Le Mans in 1949, in a 2-litre Aston Martin, although the pair had to retire with mechanical trouble.

He would have liked to have another shot the following year but after a few road runs in France he terminated his association with the French car driver he was intending to drive with, when the latter was found to prefer drink to the rigours of the Le Mans circuit.

Over the years Heal continued a close association with the VSCC, putting in a vast amount of work to resuscitate it and get it back on its feet after the war. In 1947 he became club captain but his chairmanship of the Heal business prevented him from becoming its president. Heal was frequently using his 3-litre Sunbeam to *attend events long after many people* would have given up driving: he was a knowledgeable and highly companionable supporter of the vintage car scene.

He married, in 1941, Theodora Caldwell (née Griffin). She died in 1992 and he is survived by two sons.

SIR ALAN NEALE

Sir Alan Neale, KCB, MBE, former Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food died on March 21 aged 76. He was born on October 24, 1918.

ALAN NEALE enjoyed the distinction, not all that common among Whitehall mandarins, of being almost better known in the United States than he was in Britain. His book *The Anti-Trust Laws of the USA*, published in 1960 following a Commonwealth Fund Fellowship, was a study of American anti-monopoly legislation, intended for British businesses with transatlantic aspirations. But the work was so highly acclaimed that Americans started snapping it up themselves. It quickly ran into several editions and became the standard textbook on the subject.

A separate sabbatical at Harvard's Centre for International Affairs led to Neale's *second publication, The Flow of Resources From Rich To Poor*, in 1961. Then seven years ago, while in retirement, he collaborated with an American lawyer, R. L. Stephens, to produce *International Business and National Jurisdiction* which was based on Stephens's doctoral thesis at Oxford.

Alan Derrett Neale was a model civil servant. He was born in Leeds where his father happened to be serving in the Army during the First World War, but brought up in London where the family owned a prosperous shirtmakers and gentlemen's outfitters *in Broad Street, not far from* Liverpool Street station. The company specialised in producing waiters' outfits.

Young Alan went from Highgate School to St John's College, Oxford, to read PPE despite an aptitude for modern languages at school. He was among those awarded a "wartime degree", the exigencies of the Second World War cutting short his final year at *university.*

Commissioned into the Intelligence Corps, he served in North Africa and Italy where his fluent German, refined by *visits to prewar* Germany while at school, won him a job intercepting and analysing *German signals. A captain by* the time the war ended, he was appointed MBE (military), which always gave him special pleasure.

Demobilised, Neale joined the Board of Trade where he stayed until 1968, becoming a Deputy Secretary in the previous year. He then transferred *to the Treasury where he was* made Second Permanent Secretary from 1971 to 1972, specialising in overseas finance and monetary policy.

His final appointment was as Permanent Secretary in charge of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, where he arrived at the *most testing time possible* — just as Britain was entering the European Community. The common agricultural policy, with its built-in European preferences and support systems, forced the ministry to take a fresh look at the world and involved it in seemingly endless negotiations over such *traditional imported* commodities as West Indian sugar and New Zealand butter and lamb.

Neale wisely stood back *from the sharp end of the talks* in Brussels, leaving these to his deputy and other subordinates with more specialised knowledge and experience. But he masterminded the process from Whitehall and applied his considerable intellect to some of the more intractable problems.

Perhaps the greatest compliment that could be paid to him is that other civil servants at the ministry, often resentful at having permanent secretaries thrust upon them from the Treasury and other ministries, never complained about the appointment of Alan Neale.

He served under three Ministers of Agriculture, the Con*servative Joseph Godber and* two successive Labour ministers, Fred Peart and John Silkin, before retiring in 1978 after five years at the top.

After leaving Whitehall Neale took up two part-time posts in turn. First he joined the Monopolies and Mergers Commission in 1981, becoming a *deputy chairman for* four years from 1982. Then in 1987 he was made deputy chairman of the Association of Futures Brokers and Dealers, retiring from that, too, four years ago, by which time his health was failing.

Undemonstrative and quietly efficient, Neale embodied *all that was best in the* traditions of Whitehall. His kindness to colleagues and freedom from pomposity made him well-liked by those working under him, while his loyalty and reliability ensured him a good working relationship with all his ministers.

He became chairman of the *Reform Club where he could* frequently be seen at the bridge table. He also shared a passion for snooker with Fred Peart and would often take Peart to the Reform for the odd frame, although Peart is said usually to have won. His other interests included music.

Alan Neale is survived by *his wife Joan, a former col*league at the Board of Trade whom he met while both were attending a GATT conference at Geneva, and by one son.

BELLE SHENKMAN

Belle Shenkman Smith, *fundraiser and patroness* of the arts, died of leukaemia on March 11 aged 66. She was born on June 24, 1928.

RIGHT up to the week of her death Belle Shenkman was Canada's unofficial cultural attachée in London. She devoted her very considerable energies to ensuring that Canadian artists of all types were *properly appreciated in* Britain. It mattered not whether they were dancers, musicians or painters or whether they came from the English or French-speaking parts of the nation. Equally, when British companies went to Canada she regularly paved the way to make sure that the tours went smoothly and were properly attended. Canada and Britain were the only two countries *which mattered to her.*

Among her major successes was the first visit of the National Ballet of Canada to the Royal Opera House in 1979. The following year she raised much of the money for the Royal Ballet to play a week's season at the O'Keefe Centre in Toronto. Her connections gave her the entrée to the office of many a company chairman and, once inside, *her enthusiasm and personal* chic did the rest. She usually exited with at the least a promise of help and, at the best, a large cheque, although it has to be said that 15 years ago the purse strings were open rather wider than they are now.

Belle Shenkman was equally persuasive with arts journalists and critics, who were encouraged to write *favourable preview stories* of the companies and orchestras coming to Britain. She was an expert in organising gala performances. Under her sharp eye the theatre would be properly decorated for the occasion and she would ensure that there were no empty seats in the house, even if it meant going out into the streets to find people to fill them. At one rather grand *evening* a Canadian backpacker found herself sitting between Sir John Tooley and Dame Alicia Markova. She also ensured that those who had put up the money were properly entertained: generosity was rewarded with generosity and this was one of the reasons why she got on so well *with most of her sponsors.*

Belle Shenkman was born in Kiev, but her parents left Ukraine for Ottawa when she was only three months old. She grew up in the Canadian *capital and married when she* was 20. She gradually drifted apart from her husband, Harold *Shenkman*, a businessman, and eventually came to London in 1962, but not before she had been a member of the board of the Ottawa Symphony. She quickly made her *mark in Canadian expatriate* circles here and became president of the Canadian Women's Club in 1966. In 1972 she helped to promote the first visit of the National Ballet of *Canada to London at* the Coliseum, to which they returned three years later.

Her second marriage, to Desmond Smith, was in 1979. He was a Canadian major-general, who had had a distinguished wartime career. An elegant man, exuding charm and authority, he was as *successful out of uniform in* commerce as he had been in it at the front. He helped to provide the ideal backdrop for his wife's fundraising activities, including a substantial apartment near the Albert Hall. Its walls were hung with a number of contemporary paintings, by no means all by the "easiest" of artists, which proclaimed the family taste.

Belle Shenkman was taken *on as a sponsorship consul*tant by several companies, including Alcan and Jaguar. She was also a valuable ally of both the Royal Ballet and the Sadler's Wells Ballet. When the latter went on a tour of western Canada, where the company name was not exactly on everyone's lips, Belle *Shenkman used her old tech*nique of a series of gala performances to make sure the reception was right.

She worked equally hard for the Royal College of Music, arranging with the help of Jaguar for groups of students there to give performances at British embassies in Europe.

She was a small woman physically, standing at little more than 5ft and almost birdlike in appearance. But she emanated energy and was single-minded in her determination to see that Canada was at all times reflected in a correct cultural light. Some of this enthusiasm waned after *the death of General Smith in* October 1991. One of her main props had been taken away and she was less inclined to go out raising money for artistic causes, the task at which she had excelled for more than twenty years.

She is survived by a son and a daughter.

PROFESSOR LASZLO LAJTHA

Professor Laszlo Lajtha, CBE, scientist, died on March 14 aged 74. He was born on May 25, 1920.

LASZLO LAJTHA was a son of one of Hungary's three greatest composers of classical music but, although a lover and connoisseur of music himself, he was not destined to follow in his father's footsteps. In 1938 he entered medical school in Budapest, graduated in 1942 and embarked on a research career with George *Hevesey, pioneer of the use of* radioisotopes in biological investigation, in the department of physiology.

He came to England in 1947 under the auspices of a British Council visiting fellowship — and repaid the council, despite frequent headhunting attempts throughout his distin*guished career, by staying and* eventually becoming a British citizen.

Influenced now by eminent haematologists at the Radcliffe Infirmary in Oxford, Laszlo introduced his radioisotope expertise and by the mid-1950s had become one of the world's foremost experimental *haematologists and radio*biologists.

Fifteen happy years were spent in Oxford before he was persuaded by the Medical Research Council in 1962 to accept a new challenge. The Christie Hospital in Manchester, one of the leading cancer hospitals, had a fledgeling and somewhat fragmented research programme. The challenge was to unify and develop that research.

He tackled the task with such vigour that within five years he had won the support *of the then British Empire* Cancer Campaign and had built a brand-new research centre, housed for the first time under one roof and now world famous as the Paterson *Institute for Cancer Research.*

Until his retirement in 1983, Lajtha not only continued to develop the Paterson but retained his pre-eminence as a research scientist. Young scientists the world over competed for the chance to work as visiting scientists under his direction. Although he was recognised *internationally* by scientific colleagues for many years, official recognition *came slowly.*

His efforts were eventually rewarded, however, first with the Chair of Experimental Oncology, created for him by the University of Manchester in 1970 and then, in 1983, by his appointment in the New *Year's Honours List*, as CBE. That same year, his native country officially recognised his work by conferring upon him honorary membership of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

He served with distinction on many public bodies: nationally (with the Cancer Research Campaign, the Joint Co-ordinating Committee on Cancer, the National Radia*tion Protection Board among* others) and internationally.

To those with whom he worked Laszlo Lajtha was charismatic, intellectually dynamic and very forceful: in many ways the archetypal, middle-European professor. He arrived in Manchester with "plans", and his arguments proved irresistible, though seldom diplomatic or unduly hindered by democratic *process. Nevertheless,* research with Laszlo Lajtha was undoubtedly enjoyable for most of the time for those who liked challenge. He was always available for discussion or argument and was also the most loyal and encouraging of colleagues to have at a scientific meeting.

Although he clearly enjoyed being in a position to have his opinions heard and taken into account in the development of science and medicine, he never imagined himself indispensable and this was reflected in his prompt retirement. He recognised that research institutes need regular *transfusions of new blood in* order to continue to flourish. Another reason was his wide-ranging interests: Egyptology, archaeology, horticulture and baroque music among many others.

He returned to the Oxford area where he could pursue his major interest in ancient *Japanese history and poetry:* his most recent scholarly pursuit was to collect and then to illustrate a form of Japanese poetry known as Tanka. Typically, he also founded a sixth-form science club at the local *grammar school.*

He is survived by his wife Gillian and two sons.

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ON THIS DAY

March 29 1926

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C.O.D. TO-DAY.

NEW SYSTEM IN FORCE.

The new inland postal cash on delivery system comes into force to-day. There has been considerable opposition to the new proposals; and at the outset all the trade organisations opposed the idea, holding that it would deal a blow at local industry. Following the announcement of the Government's intention, protests were launched by the British Chambers of Commerce, the Association of Retail Distributors, the Drapers' Chamber of Trade, and similar bodies.

These views seem to have modified in the *interim, for it has been realized that Great Britain* is the only important country in Europe in which the system does not exist. At the last meeting of the Association of Retail Distributors it was decided that all members present should be recommended to pay the poundage fees on all goods sent C.O.D. where the orders exceeded one pound in value. It was also decided to ask the Prime Minister and the Postmaster-General that separate accounts should be kept of the income and expenditure involved in operating the system so that the success or failure of the system could be judged at the end of the first year.

Among those who are not prejudiced it is recognised that this adventure is not without precedent. The system obtains in the Dominions, and at present parcels may be sent C.O.D. to a number of places abroad, including such remote destinations as the Falkland Islands, the Cook Islands, the Malay States, the Gold Coast, and British East Africa. It is, therefore, believed that the present experiment should result in a substantial addition to the Post Office revenue. The Post Office is prepared to deal with everything sent cash on delivery from to-day. The service will apply to everything which may be sent by parcel post. The value stated by the sender on the charge form will be collected from the addressee by the Post Office and remitted immediately to the sender by means of a special Order. Parcels, ordinary or registered, may be posted C.O.D. at any money order post office. Parcels not exceeding £5 in value will be delivered at any address within the limits of the service on payment by the addressee to the postmen of the amount to be collected; for those which exceed £5 in value the addressee will be required to pay the amount to be collected at the post office indicated on an advice note which will be sent to him. The service does not apply to the Irish Free State in either direction.

There is no doubt that postal shopping has greatly increased during the last few years, principally owing to the good faith that has been fostered as between the firms who make a feature *of this method of purchase and their many* customers. The accepted bargain is that money will be returned, if the goods do not give satisfaction and are returned within three days in good condition. That both parties observe their side of the bargain——the advertising firm being careful not to overstate and the customer not to exercise too great caprice——has been the cause of the growth of the mail order departments, as they are known in the trade. It is expected that C.O.D. will cause a big increase in business.

With the new system, all the preliminary work with the forms and documents lies with the sending firm, and the customer has merely to pay to the postman the amount due on the purchase. An important announcement has been made by the three great shops of Kensington High-street, Barkers, Derry and Toms, and Pontings will defray the Government charges on all goods purchased from their advertisements or catalogues to the value of £1 or more. This means that anyone can order goods through the post on the new system and pay only the advertised price.

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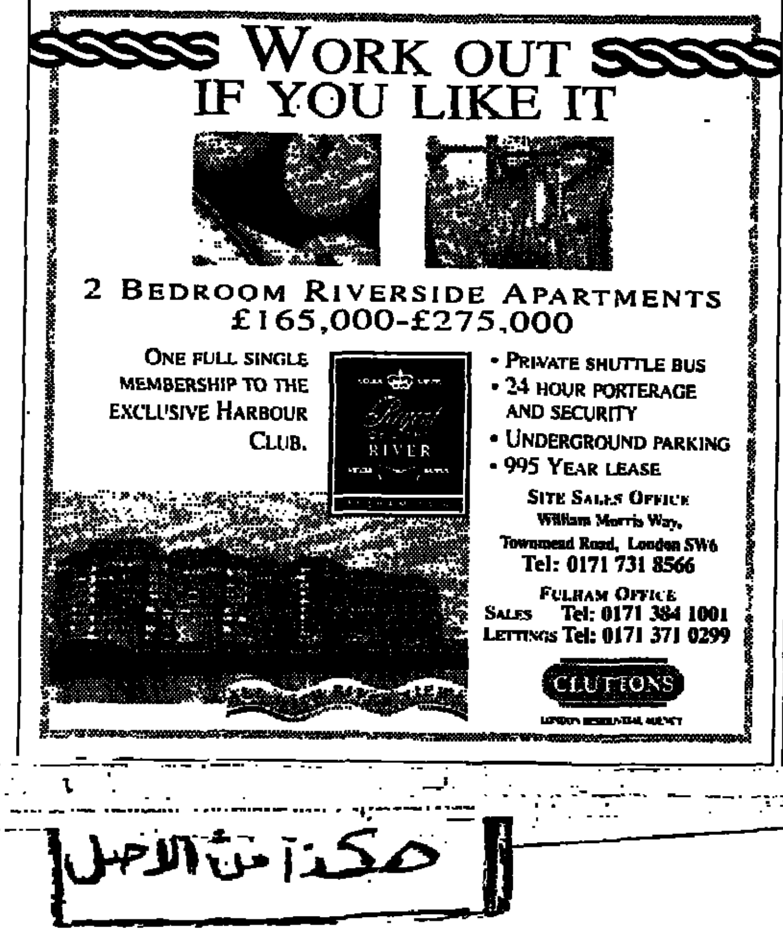

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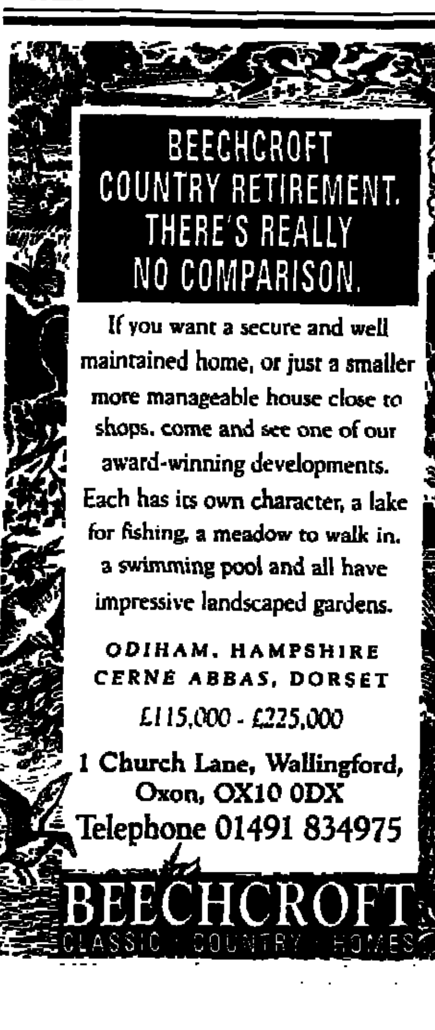

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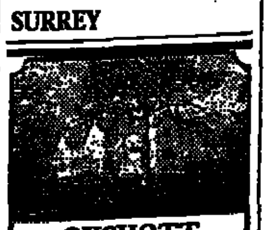

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مكذا من الاهل

GAETON COTTON

Belmont Abbey, Hereford, left, and Father John and Brother Columban at work in the grounds, where there are now 11 houses

Semi-cloistered living

Sandy Bisp on a small residential community built by Benedictine monks

The Benedictine monks of Belmont Abbey, Hereford, have had to divine new ways to keep body and soul together since falling numbers of boarders led to the closure of their boys' school last summer.

Their response was to set up a housebuilding company, Benedomus, which in Latin loosely means "good house", to create a small residential community near their own. By linking with a building contractor, then sub-contracting interior work themselves, the monks were able to control cash flow, keeping costs low.

So successful was a first phase of 11 units, incorporating a derelict cottage and the decaying buildings of an old pig farm, that a second phase of 13 units will soon be started — assuming the planners give a hoped-for Easter blessing.

Converts to the abbey's brand of semi-cloistered living were not hard to find. Only the original converted detached farm cottage in phase one — at £85,000, the most expensive of the homes — is unsold in what has become St Michael's Court.

The development is set beside the Abbey of St Michael and All Angels, whose church was designed by Edward Welby Pugin, son of the great Augustus.

The next phase includes a two-bedroomed bungalow, some flats and two and three-bedroomed houses built around a "village green" to be created from redundant hard tennis courts. All are far larger than standard — two-bedroomed units offer between 860 and 970 sq ft of living space.

The 50 monks are dedicated to providing sensibly priced, high-quality housing — anything remotely speculative would be anathema to them. "Otherwise," John Hubert, the lay bursar, says, "we might as well have sold off monastery land to a developer".

Though sales of the 125-year leasehold properties will be subject to monastery approval when they change hands, it is wrong to suppose that the "right mix" for the little community implies occupancy by only cradle-to-the-grave Roman Catholics.

Mr Hubert says: "Non-Catholics are welcome. Buyers tend to be people of 50 and over, whose children have left home, but we want some single people here, too. One or two properties will be kept for letting, especially in cases of special need." There is a no-pets rule.

The attractions of living in the shadow of the abbey house and church, founded in 1859, are not only architectural. With three acres of monastic gardens, sheltered by clipped yews, and linked by walkways to the new housing, the 33-acre level site is ideal for the old or disabled.

Maintenance of public, semi-private or private garden areas is included in a service charge, which buys a share in a structural insurance policy to cover every home.

A strong feeling of safety and security pervades the development, with its colonnaded walkways and pergola-shaded private courtyard gardens around a restored Pugin pigsty. A common-room block, with its own kitchen, is used as a residents' meeting area and for private entertaining.

"The room can be booked for special occasions," Mr Hubert says. "And our abbey guest-house is always there for overnight visitors."

Needless to say, guests will not find spare pilgrims' cots, but tourist-authority recommended bed-and-breakfast, or full-board accommodation — from £12 a night.

To coexist with the look of Belmont Abbey, St Michael's Court has been designed by Rod Robinson Associates of Hereford, using mellow brick and traditional features such as built-out chimneys. The modern feel comes from green-stained diagonal weatherboarding, which will extend to the second phase of homes with views of the Black Mountains.

St Michael's Court is less than a mile away from a big supermarket, library, doctor's surgery and pharmacy.

Belmont is the second largest abbey in Britain (after Ampleforth) so because running costs total £250,000 a year, redevelopment of former school buildings will continue.

As well as parishes to run in the diocese and around the country, the monks have a mission in Peru to support.

Mr Hubert says: "Benedictines are different in that each house is independent and self-financing, with the abbot responsible only to the Pope."

Gloss on the mill

Christine Webb on the conversion into houses of a listed watermill

When the National Trust leased an old watermill to an architect to convert into nine private homes, it was so delighted with the results that it bought two to let out as holiday homes.

The architect was Kit Martin, whose speciality — the vertical conversion of crumbling historic buildings to form houses rather than flats — has made him a saviour of some architectural gems.

His work at Burnham Overy Water Mill, near Burnham Market, Norfolk, is no exception. For years, the trust had looked for a way to sustain the Grade II listed mill, which had threatened to be a financial drain in an area where the trust already suffers an annual deficit of £60,000.

"This was a difficult property to open to the public," Richard Hill, managing agent for the North Norfolk Coast, says. "It was bought with bequests in 1939, ground oats for a couple more years, and was then used for storage by a farmer."

The rambling mill was built in 1791 and the engine house was added in the early 19th century. A fire severely damaged the building and its machinery in 1959, although the mill wheel survived. The building was restored with two storeys instead of three, and was again used for agricultural storage. In cold weather, cows would mount a concrete spiral staircase to shelter on the first floor.

"We struggled to find a use for it," Mr Hill says. "The idea of its being a visitor centre for the North Norfolk Coast was dropped after a stormy public meeting, and it stayed empty until the mid-1980s. We thought of converting it into flats. We got planning permission, but the bottom fell out of the property market, so the project went on ice again."

But Mr Martin, who lives in Norfolk, liked the mill and approached the trust with his proposition: he would buy the lease, carry the cost of restoring and converting the mill, keep any profit from selling the seven houses and, on completion, hand back the head lease, with covenants to protect the character of the buildings.

"The mill has wonderful views across meadows, and the River Burn runs underneath it and through an area of dunes to the sea. The trust was keen to have a sympathetic residential conversion, and this was possible because the mill workings had all gone," Mr Martin says.

All but two properties have been sold, and these will be finished in April. At £230,000, The Granary, with four bedrooms and two bathrooms, is under offer, leaving one two-bedroom unit at £95,500 on the market through Strutt & Parker of Norwich.

"The buildings are worth more as houses than as flats, because people prefer to live in houses," Mr Hill says. "This way, there are no disputes over common areas, and people are responsible for maintaining their own foundations, roof and walls, which keeps everyone up to the mark.

"We liked the result so much we used a legacy to buy the only two flats as holiday homes. In their first year they have been very popular. The rent money goes back into underwriting the cost of nature conservation wardens in the 2,000 hectares we own along the coast. The mill was potentially a huge liability. It was reaching the point of needing massive repairs to the roof, brickwork and timbers. We were sitting on a timebomb.

"We are absolutely delighted. It is a first-class scheme. It means that people are getting access to the building which they were not before. This is the first time Mr Martin has worked with the National Trust, and he is looking at doing other things with us in our region and elsewhere. The greatest compliment possible came when I took our director-general, Sir Angus Stirling, to see it recently, and he asked when we were going to start work. The character of the mill was so unchanged, he could not identify any renovation."

Now Mr Martin is working on his next two projects, converting the former Royal Naval Hospital at Great Yarmouth into 60 houses, and turning the turreted Formakin Castle near Glasgow into 17 homes.

Burnham Overy Water Mill, near Burnham Market, Norfolk, has been converted into homes

---

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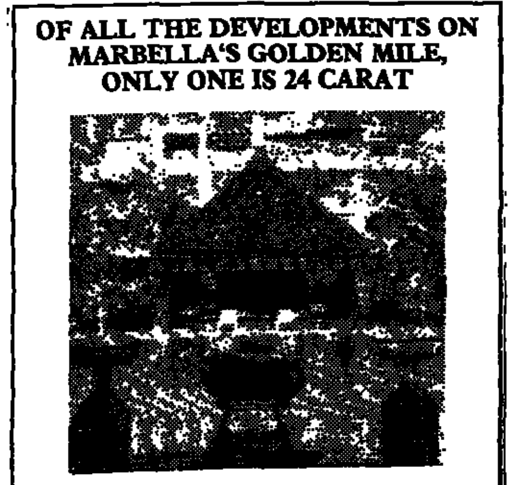

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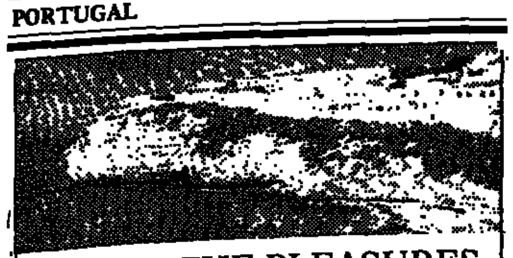

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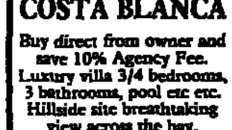

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THE TIMES TODAY

WEDNESDAY MARCH 29 1995

NEWS

Leading judges forced to retire

■ Some of the country's leading judges will be forced from the bench this week when a new compulsory retirement age of 70 for all judges comes into force plus a bar on retired judges helping out beyond the age of 75.

Lord Lane, the former Lord Chief Justice, and five retired law lords: 'Lord Bridge of Harwich, Lord Lowry and Lord Templeman, Lord Roskill and Lord Ackner (from July) will all be barred from judicial work .... **Page 1**

Spanish frigate joins fish war

■ A Spanish navy frigate was preparing to sail immediately to the northwest Atlantic to protect 17 Spanish factory ships fishing for Greenland halibut off Newfoundland. Canadian patrol vessels have already seized one Spanish trawler and cut the nets of another in the area................................. **Pages 1, 8**

Father cleared

A father accused of sexually assaulting his daughter after she recalled incidents from her childhood was freed when the prosecution admitted that the "memories" had emerged during psychiatric counselling........... **Page 1**

Courts martial review

The Armed Forces' court martial system, whose origins date back to 1385 is to be reviewed following pressure from a number of Labour MPs .... **Page 1**

New BBC attack

The Cabinet was at the throat of the BBC after Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, led a fresh wave of ministerial allegations of biased reporting .... **Page 2**

25,000 volt survivor

An undergraduate who was thrown into the path of a train by a 25,000-volt shock after he was chased on to a line by a gang spoke of his "remarkable luck" at having survived .... **Page 3**

Car deaths jailing

Anthony Marsh, 53, a millionaire who killed two pensioners when he crashed his wife's £130,000 car at speed was jailed for nine months.............................. **Page 3**

Rugby women

The English Rugby Football Union has unanimously decided that women can become full members of its national committee .... **Page 5**

Trauma damages

Reforms to make it easier for people such as the relatives in the Hillsborough disaster to claim damages for pyschological trauma are being called for by the Law Commission.............. **Page 6**

Government U-turn

The Government announced in the Commons a series of dramatic U-turns on the Disability Bill including insuring greater access of public transport to the disabled .... **Page 7**

Gucci riddle

Milan police were tring to unravel the murky financial affairs of Maurizio Gucci, the fashion heir shot dead in an ambush ..**Page 8**

New Europe battle

The long war to reshape Europe's constitution has begun. Fifteen EU Ambassadors this week squared up, debating the first of many hundreds of pieces of paper which will be haggled over, torn up, and redrafted........... **Page 10**

Turks warned

Britain has told Turkey that it must remove its troops from northern Iraq as soon as possible, or face a veto in the European Parliament of Turkey's proposed customs union.................. **Page 11**

China's secret

Cannibalism for ideological reasons, happened in China during the Cultural Revolution of the late Sixties................................ **Page 11**

Gump gloom for British hopefuls

■ A cinematic contest that divided America into "Gumpers" and *Pulp Fiction* fans ended in a triumph for *Forrest Gump*, and left British nominees with four of the more minor Oscars. Tom Hanks became the first actor since Spencer Tracy in 1938 to win a second consecutive Best Actor award. Elton John and Sir Tim Rice took the best original song award .... **Page 5**

ANDRÉ CAMARA

Some of the hundreds of pensioners who lobbied Parliament yesterday to protest at inadequate protection in the Pensions Bill

BUSINESS

Building societies: The Halifax has won the right to award shares to 10 million customers when it makes its planned stock market debut in 1996 .... **Page 21**

Jobs: Dawson International, the troubled textiles group, has ousted its chairman and managing director and axed 500 jobs in a bid to restore its fortunes .... **Page 21**

Buses: More than 5,000 bus drivers, engineers and other staff of West Midlands Travel stand to make about £38,000 each as a result of the planned merger with National Express .... **Page 21**

Markets: The FT-SE 100 fell 21.5 to 3128.3. Sterling was unchanged at 85.4 after a rise from $1.5985 to $1.6005 but a fall from DM2.2456 to DM2.2404 .... **Page 24**

SPORT

Football: England, unbeaten since Terry Venables became coach, take on Uruguay at Wembley, and in weather conditions unfamiliar to their visitors .... **Page 40**

Motor racing: Elf said that the fuel it supplied to teams for the Brazilian Grand Prix was legal and obeyed rules set by the international automobile federation .. **Page 40**

Rugby union: France have gone for experience in choosing their World Cup squad, which will be captained by the wing Philippe Saint-André.............................. **Page 36**

Cricket: After 68 years of trying, Queensland won the Sheffield Shield for the first time. The trophy came with victory by an innings and 101 runs against South Australia.............................. **Page 40**

ARTS

Festive spirit: From Bath to Edinburgh, from rock bands to literati — *The Times* guide to the top British arts festivals offers a panorama of cultural delights............. **Page 29**

Ring of confidence: With the unveiling of *Siegfried*, Covent Garden's new cycle of Wagner's *Ring* is proving to have strong musical and dramatic qualities .... **Page 28**

Idiot talk: The Russian author Victor Erofeyev's underground novel, *Life with an Idiot*, has been turned into an opera by Alfred Schnittke and will be premiered in London on Saturday...................... **Page 30**

Memo from the president: A reminder of Czech president Vaclav Havel's dramatic powers provided by a new London production of his play, *The Memorandum*...**Page 28**

FEATURES

Iain R. Webb: Not since the 1980s has the suit been more important, but where the previous powerhouse incarnation was sharp and strident, the new version is sleek and ladylike....................... **Page 12**

Banker's friend: Michael Williams won £387,136 in the National Lottery. What will he spend it on? Walter Ellis meets a man who really loves animals .... **Page 13**

Libby Purves: I suppose ideally teachers should not look like hookers or bikers but there is no need whatever for them to look like flight attendents .... **Page 13**

MEDIA

Moving stories: Must Hollywood dominate the cinema for ever — or can other countries make an impact on the screen?............ **Page 31**

THE PAPERS

Iraq has handed down unjustifiable sentences for two Americans who trespassed. Kuwait has built a deep trench along its side of the border and the UN and Iraq maintain checkpoints. It is a wonder how they were waved through

— *New York Times*

The United States asks for the release of the two Americans on a "humanitarian" basis. That means Washington is prepared to go without demanding that Iraq pay a political price for its offensive act — already a concession

— *Washington Post*

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ CONNERY'S LAW
Geoff Brown on Sean Connery in *Just Cause*, fighting for justice in the Everglades

■ SEX WAR
Nigella Lawson on Camille Paglia, the feminist other feminists love to hate

TV LISTINGS

Preview: Michael Foot blames the Serbs and the West for the bloodshed in Yugoslavia. *Two Hours From London* (BBC2, 7pm). **Review:** Men were men and women were women but after watching BBC's *QED* Lynne Truss is no longer sure .... **Page 39**

OPINION

Manchester message

Labour still seems determined to deny poor but bright children the educational opportunities from which many of its senior spokesmen benefited .... **Page 15**

Two kinds of nation

Nationhood and national interest cannot be reduced to a calculus bereft of myth, roots and passion .... **Page 15**

Life in the big city

A Victorian menagerie no longer, the London zoo has redefined itself as a compelling ark .... **Page 15**

COLUMNS

SIMON JENKINS

First smash the Foreign Office. Then cut the British overseas budget of £3.7 billion to zero. Abandon all embassies, withdraw from all international bodies. Take the files, the attachés, the Orders of the Bath, the sherry glasses and bury them full five fathoms deep. Then start again............................ **Page 14**

TONY HALL

Part of the political vote-winning process is to put pressure on all the media to concentrate on the issues that benefit their party, carefully avoiding those that don't. And here the dark art of the spin doctor comes in .... **Page 14**

PETER RIDDELL

Politicians have always moaned about the BBC, their complaints have seldom been justified and they have usually not gained much from their protests .... **Page 7**

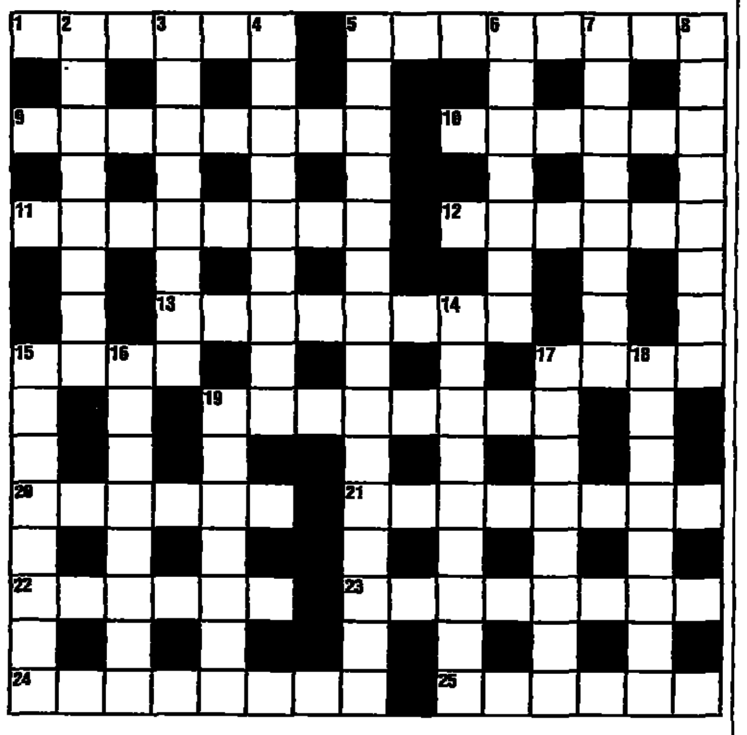
OBITUARIES

Anthony Heal, chairman of Heal & Son, 1952-81; **Belle Shenkman**, arts patron; **Sir Alan Neale**, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture; **Professor Laszlo Lajtha**, scientist............................ **Page 17**

LETTERS

Regulator's battle to set fair electricity prices; advice for the Government on nuclear disarmament; American English is not such a corrupting influence .... **Page 15**

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,815



ACROSS

1 Revolted by upper class, forthright language ... (6).
5 ... ignore a festival (8).
9 West wants a sound substance that combines with rocket fuel (8).
10 Regional delicacy given by old lady to soldiers (6).
11 Drive out of bounds — no one's taken aback (8).
12 Refuse to give birth (6).
13 Bond's boss is drawn into row about broadcast (8).
15 Poison used in America is primarily prussic acid (4).
17 A month with the family (4).
19 Ill-mannered and rude ranting about nothing (8).
20 Dean carries one's case (6).
21 Fierce-tempered Irish get upset (8).
22 Tool strips away the inner part (6).
23 Obscure artist sighted outside (8).
24 Application yeoman officer put in — sovereign rejected it (8).
25 Judge retiring encounters enmity at first (6).

DOWN

2 Shot in the arm, lay me in a truck (4-2-2).
3 Score freely all round provided I make openings (8).
4 The Spanish say 'I celebrate', writing mournfully (9).
5 Make a firm decision to accelerate (3,4,4,4).
6 Military base still without a railway (7).
7 Live a life that's monotonous and mean, covered in a letter (8).
8 Soldiers close hamper (8).
14 Cordial lines written about group by amateur (9).
15 Catholic paper for all of us (8).
16 Sweet making order perfect (5-3).
17 Ludicrously trust sad, sentimental feeling (8).
18 Win over, prize money counted out loud (8).
19 Tick isn't, strangely, a hymenopterous insect (7).

Solution to Puzzle No 19,814

P	Y	J	A	M	A	S		A	B	D	O	M	E	N
A		U		E		I		I		R		A		I
T	H	R	U	M		D	E	R	R	I	N	G	D	O
R		Y		O		E		M		L		E		B
I	M	M	U	R	E		P	A	R	L	A	N	C	E
O		A		A		G		R				T		
T	E	N	O	N		O	B	S	T	I	N	A	T	E
I				D		O		H		N				X
C	A	S	S	A	N	D	R	A		E	S	T	O	P
		P				S		L		B		O		E
A	L	A	C	R	I	T	Y		C	R	E	W	E	D
E		N		U		R		B		I		R		I
S	Y	N	D	I	C	A	T	E		A	D	O	R	E
O		E		N		I		E		T		P		N
P	A	R	A	G	O	N		P	R	E	F	E	C	T

Times Two Crossword, page 40

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London	701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex	702
Dorset,Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts,Gloucs,Avon,Soms	705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Herefds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks	
Area within M25	731
Essex/Herts/Beds/Bucks/Berks/Oxon	732
Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Hants	734
M25 London Orbital only	736
National traffic and roadworks	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Monday: Highest day temp: Poole, Dorset, 16C (61F); lowest day max: Cape Wrath, Highland, 5C (41F); highest rainfall: Cape Wrath, 0.75in; highest sunshine: Eastbourne, 10.8hr.

SUMMER SAVERS

LONDON TO FLORENCE from £199 return.

LONDON TO COPENHAGEN from £149 return.

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Phone Air UK on 0345 666777 or contact your travel agent. For travel after 1st April. All major credit cards accepted. Period of applicability varies. Restrictions apply. Subject to Airport Tax.

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FORECAST

☐ **General:** England and Wales will have a mainly fine, bright day with plenty of sunshine, though a few snow showers are likely near eastern coasts for a time. Winds will be light for the most part but top temperatures will be a degree or two below normal.

Scotland and Northern Ireland will be largely dry and sunny, but Shetland and Buchan will have snow showers at first. Outbreaks of rain or sleet, with freshening winds, will reach Northern Ireland and western Scotland in the evening. It will be rather cold.

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia:** good sunny spells. Some snow showers at first. Wind north moderate or fresh falling light. Max 8C (46F).

☐ **Central S England, E Midlands, E England, W Midlands, Channel Isles, Central N, NE England:** dry and mostly sunny. Wind north or variable light. Max 6-8C (43-46F).

☐ **SW England, S Wales, N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man:** sunny spells, cloudier later. Wind north backing south light or moderate. Max 6-8C (43-46F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney:** mainly sunny, cloudier later. Wind light variable becoming south moderate or fresh. Max 5-7C (41-45F).

☐ **Aberdeen, Shetland:** sunny spells, some snow showers at first. Wind north backing south mostly moderate. Max 3-5C (37-41F).

☐ **Argyll, NW Scotland, N Ireland:** sunny at first then cloudy. Rain or sleet later. Wind south or southeast light becoming fresh or strong. Max 7C (45F).

☐ **Outlook:** becoming milder again but with rain at times, especially in the north.

AROUND BRITAIN

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

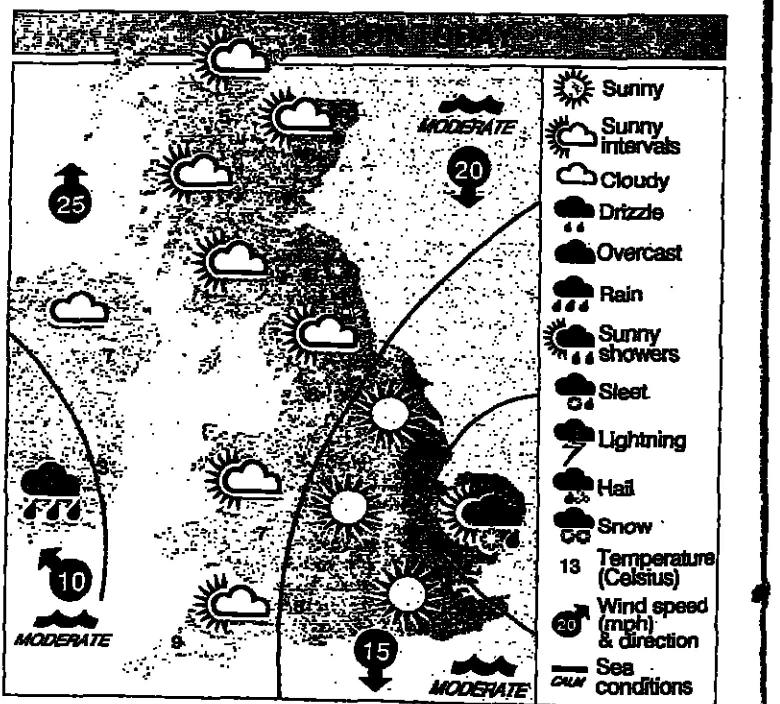
	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	F	
Aberdeen	5 8	0.14	3	37	sn	Littlehmptn	X				
Anglesey	X					Liverpool	7 2	0 10	5	41	s
Aspatria	8 7	0.24	6	43	s	London	7 0	0 04	7	45	sn
Aviemore	5 5	0.18	2	36	sn	Lowestoft	4 8	0 21	6	43	sn
Belfast	8.0	0 11	6	43	s	Manchester	6.5	0.20	6	43	s
Birmingham	8 5	0.22	7	45	sn	Margate	5 0	0 11	6	43	sn
Bognor R	8 9	0 16	8	46	s	Minehead	9 1	0 13	9	48	h
Bournem'th	10 0	0.02	9	48	s	Morecambe	9.5	0.24	6	43	s
Bristol	9.0	0 03	8	46	s	Newcastle	6 5	0.47	5	41	sn
Buxton	7.2	0.56	3	37	s	Newquay	X				
Cardiff	8.9	0.09	8	46	s	Norwich	5.2	0.40	5	41	sh
Clacton	4 2	0 14	6	43	sn	Nottingham	X				
Cleethorpes	X					Oxford	9.0	0.02	7	45	s
Colwyn Bay	X					Penzance	10 0	0 13	11	52	s
Cromer	5.2	0 09	5	41	h	Plymouth	10.3	-	8	46	s
Doncaster	8.0	0 10	5	41	sn	Poole	9 6	-	9	48	s
Dunbar	X					Prestatyn	X	0 11	6	43	s
Eastbourne	7 9	0 09	8	46	sn	Ross-o-wye	9.3	-	9	48	s
Edinburgh	8.0	0 34	6	43	s	Salcombe	8 5	0.02	10	50	s
Eskdalemuir	8.6	0.27	4	39	s	Saunton Snd	10.2	0 05	9	48	s
Exmouth	X	0.01	8	46	s	Scarboro'	3.9	0 56	3	37	sn
Falmouth	X	0 02	9	48	b	Scilly Isles	8.8	-	9	48	s
Fishguard	8.3	0 06	6	43	sn	Shrewsbury	9 2	0.11	7	45	sh
Folkestone	6.6	0.12	7	45	sn	Skegness	5 5	0.41	5	41	sn
Glasgow	8 5	0 05	7	45	s	Southend	9.6	0.13	7	45	sn
Guernsey	7 4	0 01	11	52	s	Southport	8.9	0 14	7	45	s
Hastings	7.2	0.04	7	45	s	Southsea	8 7	0 05	8	46	s
Hayling I.	8 7	0.02	8	46	s	Stornoway	5.8	0 06	4	39	h
Herne Bay	3.2	0.06	6	43	sl	Swanage	9.6	0.03	9	48	s
Hove	6.3	0 06	7	45	s	Teignmouth	9 3	0.02	9	48	s
Hunstanton	5.3	0.19	9	48	sn	Tenby	9 0	-	8	46	s
Ilfracombe	X					Tiree	8.4	0 16	5	41	s
Isle of Man	9 4	0 12	7	45	s	Torquay	9.1	0 01	11	52	s
Jersey	8.0	0 05	10	50	s	Tynemouth	-	0.22	4	39	sh
Kinloss	4.3	0.09	4	39	sh	Ventnor	9 3	0 01	8	46	s
Leeds	8.0	0.10	5	41	sn	West-s-mare	X				
Lerwick	8.6	0.25	1	34	sn	Weymouth	9 5	0 01	9	48	s
Leuchars	7.2	0.24	5	41	sn						

These are Monday's figures

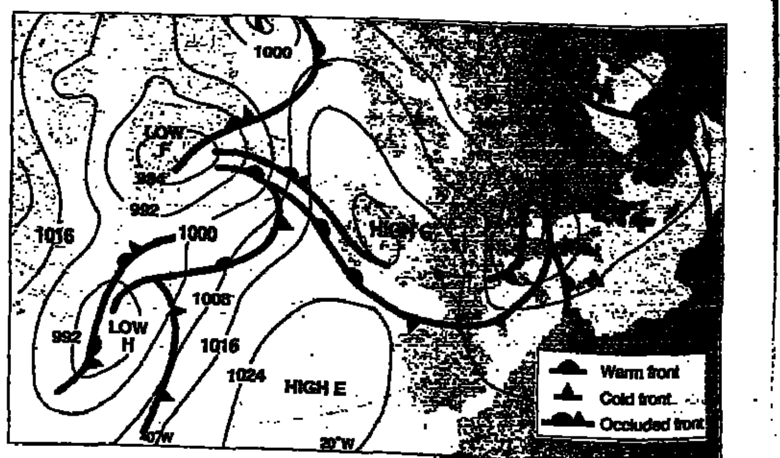
ABROAD

Ajaccio	13	55	s	Corfu	16	61	f	Majorca	12	54	f	Rome	16	61	f
Akrotiri	18	64	s	Dublin	10	50	d	Malaga	28	82	s	Salzburg	2	36	c
Alex'dria	21	70	f	Dubrovnik	13	55	c	Malta	18	64	s	S F'risco	14	57	s
Algiers	17	63	f	Faro	22	72	s	Melb'rne	17	63	c	Santiago	26	79	s
Amst'dm	3	37	f	Florence	13	55	f	Mexico C	24	75	s	S Paulo	24	75	f
Athens	18	64	s	Frankfurt	4	39	f	Miami	27	81	s	Seoul	11	52	s
Bahrain	20	68	s	Funchal	19	66	s	Milan	11	52	s	Sing'por	32	90	f
Bangkok	32	90	f	Geneva	5	41	s	Montreal	7	45	c	St'kholm	0	32	f
Barbados	29	84	f	Gibraltar	25	77	s	Moscow	1	34	r	Strasb'rg	5	41	f
Barcelona	13	55	f	Helsinki	-2	28	sn	Munich	0	32	sn	Sydney	21	70	f
Beirut	18	64	f	Hong K	19	66	c	Nairobi	26	79	f	Tangier	18	64	s
Belgrade	15	59	f	Innsbrck	2	36	f	Naples	26	79	f	Tel Aviv	19	66	s
Berlin	-1	30	sn	Istanbul	16	61	f	N Delhi	29	84	s	Tenerife	25	77	s
Bermuda	18	64	f	Jeddah	28	82	s	N York	10	50	s	Tokyo	12	54	s
Biarritz	11	52	f	Jo'burg	21	70	f	Nice	13	55	s	Toronto	6	43	s
Borde'x	9	48	f	Karachi	29	84	f	Oslo	4	39	s	Tunis	16	61	f
Brussels	2	36	sn	L Palmas	22	72	s	Paris	5	41	f	Valencia	17	63	s
Budapst	4	39	s	Le Touqt	3	37	f	Peking	10	50	s	Vanc'ver	9	48	s
Cairo	22	72	s	Lisbon	22	72	s	Perth	31	88	f	Venice	17	63	f
Cape Tn	26	79	s	Locarno	11	52	s	Prague	1	34	c	Vienna	4	39	c
Chicago	4	39	d	L Angels	21	70	s	Reykjavik	0	32	c	Warsaw	3	37	c
Ch'church	17	63	-	Luxembg	1	34	f	Rhodes	19	66	s	Wash'ton	16	61	f
Cologne	5	41	f	Luxor	26	79	s	Rio de J	20	68	f	Well'ngton	20	68	c
C'phagn	2	36	f	Madrid	18	64	s	Riyadh	19	66	s	Zurich	2	36	c

Temperatures at midday local time X = not available



Changes to chart below from noon: high G will slip S then E and build; high E will maintain central pressure; low F will push NE and fill; low H also NE, little change



HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	0 08	6 91	0:41	7 33	Leith	1:29	5.17	1:40	5.31
Aberdeen	0 16	3 99	0:13	4 09	Liverpool	10:02	9.19	10:30	8.98
Avonmouth	5 58	12.89	6.21	12 96	Lowestoft	8:28	2.36	8:22	2.34
Belfast	9:54	3 45	10:22	3.34	Margate	11:08	4 75	11:20	4 71
Cardiff	5:44	12 19	6.06	12.25	Milford Haven	4:59	6.73	5:22	6 70
Devonport	4:24	5.25	4 53	5 20	Newquay	3:47	6.62	4:09	6.57
Dover	10 05	6.24	10.11	6 44	Oban	4:37	3.78	4:59	3.59
Dublin	10.31	4 11	11.08	3.94	Penzance	3:27	5.20	3:51	5.12
Falmouth	3.57	5.09	4:23	4.89	Portland	5:27	1.96	6:57	1.91
Glasgow	11:25	4.66	11:43	4 66	Portsmouth	10 12	4.50	10:39	4.71
Harwich	10.48	3 87	11 03	3 78	Shoreham	10 15	5.98	10:38	6.19
Holyhead	9·08	5.46	9·40	5.29	Southampton	9·44	4.33	10:06	4 51
Hull	5:18	7 01	5:14	7 22	Swansea	5.12	9.18	5:33	9.15
Ilfracombe	4:46	8.98	5 10	8.95	Tees	2:27	4.98	2:38	5.12
King's Lynn	4:56	6 31	5.12	6 68	W'ton-on-Nze	10:45	4.08	10:57	4.01

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 6 44 am
Sun sets: 7.28 pm
Moon sets 6.01 pm
Moon rises 5.48 am

New Moon March 31

London 7.28 pm to 6.42 am
Bristol 7.38 pm to 6 52 am
Edinburgh 7 44 pm to 6.50 am
Manchester 7.38 pm to 6 49 am
Penzance 7.49 pm to 7.04 am

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هكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الأصل

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Noel Edmonds: TV's one-man industry

SPORT 35-40
Venables takes cold comfort from wintry spell

TELEVISION AND RADIO
Pages 38, 39

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook
WEDNESDAY MARCH 29 1995

Society's court victory fuels C&G dispute

Judge backs Halifax float

By Anne Ashworth

THE Halifax has won the right to award shares to 10 million customers when it makes its planned stock market debut in the spring or summer of 1996. However, other investors will not be able to buy shares when the building society converts itself into a £10 billion bank after a merger with the Leeds Permanent that will be put to the vote in May.

Under the Halifax scheme, approved by the High Court yesterday, every investor will collect an estimated £500. Anyone with £1,000 plus in an account could receive at least £500 more, depending on the size of the deposit.

Jon Foulds, the Halifax chairman, said: "We are delighted by the court ruling. It allows us to offer members of the Halifax and the Leeds a scheme which we believe fairly reflects their interest in the societies."

The structure of the offer is now set to be the model for all future building society conversions. There will now be renewed speculation about the possible flotation plans of other large societies, such as the Nationwide, the Alliance & Leicester and the Woolwich.

More immediately, the Halifax victory adds to the controversy surrounding the £1.8 billion Lloyds bid for the Cheltenham & Gloucester. Whereas the C&G deal denies cash bonuses to all the society's 400,000 borrowers and 100,000 savers of less than than two years' standing, all Halifax borrowers and savers, regardless of status, will benefit from this shareout.

When C&G members gather in London this Friday to vote on the takeover, the C&G chief executive, Andrew Longhurst, and his fellow executives are expected to face further demands to reconsider their strategy for the society.

Opposition from borrowers is likely to be particularly vociferous. Although they do not stand to gain from the merger, the consent of a majority of those borrowers voting is essential to carry the proposals, even if savers, in their separate vote, are overwhelmingly in favour.

The C&G yesterday refused to be deflected from its path by the Halifax ruling. A spokeswoman said: "The Halifax judgment related to a flotation, not to an acquisition. It cannot affect the proposals that we have put to our members. They have known from the outset that ours is a cash deal. Shares were never going to be available."

One of the principal reasons given by the C&G for not offering shares related to the five-year ban placed on takeovers of societies that have gone public. During this period, shareholders would not be able "to realise any acquisition premium which might be offered by a potential purchaser of the company".

C&G borrowers and C&G savers of less than two years' standing were excluded from the cash payments by a High Court ruling last June.

However, in his consideration of the Halifax scheme, Mr Justice Chadwick was guided by details of the decision in the Abbey National conversion, in which all savers and borrowers were given free shares. The judge said: "I am not persuaded that the C&G decision says that I should not treat the Abbey National decision as good law."

The case was brought by the Building Societies Commission, the industry regulator, to clarify the meaning of section 100 (8) of the Building Societies Act 1986, which states that the rights to acquire shares in priority to other susbcribers must be restricted to members of at less two years' standing.

In the Halifax's case, there will be no other subscribers, because those who are not customers will not be eligible to apply for shares. Savers who have been with the society for more than two years will receive additional shares under the variable distribution.

In his interpretation of what he called a "very obscure" section, drawn up to prevent speculative flows of cash between societies on rumours of impending flotations, the judge reviewed parliamentary material and consultative documents that formed the basis of the 1986 Act.

Outside court, Philip Ashcroft, a solicitor for the commission, said: "We will have to give careful study to Mr Justice Chadwick's ruling."

Pennington, page 23

PETER TREVNOR

Mike Blackburn, the Halifax chief executive, after yesterday's High Court approval for the society's flotation plan

Nuclear sale nears after £15bn pact

By Ross Tieman

NUCLEAR ELECTRIC will on Friday sign a £15 billion deal for reprocessing spent atomic power plant fuel by BNFL, the state fuel services group.

The agreement will cap the group's costs and reinforce efforts by directors of both Nuclear Electric and Scottish Nuclear, its Scottish sister company, to have both companies privatised before the next election.

Nuclear privatisation is now being debated by the Cabinet. In spite of doubts expressed by Tim Eggar, the Energy Minister, John Major is understood to be sympathetic to arguments in favour of a sale.

Completion of the Nuclear Electric deal, three and a half years after it was announced, comes only three weeks after a surprise £4 billion fuel supply and disposal agreement between BNFL and Scottish Nuclear.

The fuel contracts will cap the costs of both state-owned generating companies and transfer a great deal of financial risk to BNFL. If ownership of the companies' oldest Magnox reactors was also transferred to BNFL, together with their huge decommissioning liabilities, ministers believe the generators could be privatised. No legislation would be needed, although the Government would have to win the vote after a parliamentary debate.

The fuel reprocessing agreement comes as other western countries, led by Germany, appear to be switching to dry storage instead. In December, two of BNFL's German customers cancelled options to send fuel to Britain for reprocessing, despite a penalty fee of almost £100 million.

Pennington, page 23

Bus staff may net £38,000 windfall

By Sarah Bagnall

MORE than 5,000 bus drivers, engineers and other staff of West Midlands Travel stand to make about £38,000 each as a result of the planned merger with National Express, which values WMT at £243.7 million.

Don Colston, WMT chairman, will hold shares in the enlarged group worth more than £4 million and own options on 800,000.

WMT, owned by about 5,500 of its 7,000 staff and managers, was bought by employees for £70 million from the West Midlands Passenger Transport Authority in 1991. Employees own 100 per cent of the equity, but only 42 per cent is held directly, with the rest held in two trusts.

National Express is offering 675 new shares for every 1,000 WMT shares, and a second interim dividend of 3.9p. National Express's shares are suspended at 317p.

There is a cash alternative of 212p per share for the 42 per cent of WMT's equity owned directly by employees. This enables employees to realise in cash about £15,900 each immediately. The cash alternative is limited, so if all employees take the option, they will receive only 58 per cent of their full entitlement in cash. To encourage WMT employees to keep their shares, National Express is offering a loyalty bonus of £20 million, payable in two years' time.

If WMT employees hold on to all their shares, they will own 62 per cent of the enlarged group. National Express is also raising £20.9 million via a placing, on the basis of one for six, to fund capital expenditure.

☐ BADGERLINE, the bus operator, soared to a to £16.7 million profit (£930,000 loss) in the year to December 31. The 3p final payout due May 22, makes 4.5p. EPS rose 12.5 per cent to 9.9p.

Pennington, page 23

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FT-SE 100	3128.3	(−21.5)
Yield	4.36%	
FT-SE A All share	1533.00	(−7.81)
Nikkei	16681.73	(+585.46)
New York:		
Dow Jones	4141.78	(−15.56)*
S&P Composite	502.49	(−0.71)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	$6\frac{1}{16}$%*	($6\frac{5}{16}$%)
Long Bond	$102\frac{29}{32}$*	($103\frac{11}{16}$)
Yield	7.38%*	(7.32%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	$6\frac{9}{16}$%	($6\frac{5}{8}$%)
Liffe long gilt future (Mar)	$102\frac{27}{32}$	($103\frac{1}{8}$)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.6105*	(1.5963)
London:		
$	1.6057	(1.5977)
DM	2.2431	(2.2434)
FFr	7.9370	(7.8885)
SFr	1.8522	(1.8487)
Yen	143.15	(142.31)
£ Index	85.4	(85.4)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.3915*	(1.4057)
FFr	4.9153*	(4.9490)
SFr	1.1495*	(1.1597)
Yen	89.15*	(89.40)
$ Index	90.6	(90.3)

Tokyo close Yen 89.35

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Jun)	$17.15	($17.10)

GOLD

London close	$382.35	($381.95)

* denotes midday trading price

On schedule

The *Oriana*, the latest addition to P&O's cruise fleet, will sail out of Southampton on her maiden voyage a week on Sunday in spite of the delays that have dogged her delivery, P&O promised.
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Subsiding

Taylor Woodrow, the construction, housing and trading group, said yesterday that it would make "substantial cuts" in its British construction business, which weakened in 1993 and shows little sign of turning around. The company said: "Volume is deteriorating and the pressure on margins is becoming even more severe".
Page 22, Tempus 24

Dawson chiefs go as 500 lose jobs

By Susan Gilchrist

DAWSON International, the troubled textiles group, has ousted its chairman and managing director and axed 500 jobs in a bid to restore its ailing fortunes.

Sir Ronald Miller has stepped down as chairman after 27 years with the group. He will be succeeded by Derek Finlay, a former main board director of HJ Heinz and a non-executive director of Dawson since 1990.

Nick Kuenssberg, who was appointed managing director less than a year ago, has also gone, making way for Peter Forrest, a fellow director. The group is looking for a new chief executive.

Mr Finlay said institutional shareholders had lost confidence in the group, which has delivered a steady series of bad news over the past year.

At Pringle of Scotland, which made a loss for the first time in recent history, 350 jobs are to go. Mr Finlay said the business had run into difficulties following over-ambitious expansion outside its core knitwear business. A further 140 jobs are to be axed at Blackwood Brothers, the group's yarn operation. The reorganisation will incur exceptional losses of £10 million.

Action to cut costs at Dawson Home Fashions, the US bathroom accessories division, has failed to cut operating losses, and the business has been put up for sale. The group tried to sell it last summer. Mr Finlay said the group was in negotiations but did not rule out further provisions.

Dawson expects pre-tax profits before exceptional items for 1994 to exceed £23 million and anticipates a final dividend of not less than 1.5p.

Tempus, page 24

World's biggest bank merger

From Gwen Robinson in Tokyo

MITSUBISHI Bank and Bank of Tokyo, Japanese banking giants, are planning a merger that will create the world's biggest bank with combined assets worth Y73 trillion (£508 billion).

The two banks confirmed their merger plans at a hastily convened evening news conference in Tokyo yesterday. They plan to merge by April next year with the newly combined bank to be called Tokyo Mitsubishi Bank. Its financial resources, or balance of deposits, will far exceed those of other major Japanese commercial banks and its closest rivals in Europe and the US.

Tsuneo Wakai, the president of Mitsubishi Bank, confirmed reports of the merger at a hastily called news conference, after rumours of the deal intensified throughout the day, in spite of repeated denials by both banks. The rumours prompted a surge in trading of Mitsubishi Bank shares, and forced the Tokyo Stock Exchange to suspend trading of the shares in both.

Mr Wakai is expected to become the chairman of the new bank and Tasuku Takagaki, the president of Bank of Tokyo, will become president, according to bank officials.

Japan's Finance Ministry last night welcomed news of the merger and said formal approval is likely to be given shortly.

Ministry officials said they hoped the merger would help reinvigorate the flagging stock market and stimulate efforts to rationalise and streamline the banking and finance industries.

Pennington, page 23
UK banks dwarfed, page 25

Final page of bestsellers sales drama

Hely Hutchinson: talks

By Martin Waller

CUT-PRICE copies of the latest books from John Le Carré and Stephen King will nestle in shopping trolleys across the land alongside the discounted conflakes and baked beans by the end of the year, the publisher of both authors has predicted. Tim Hely Hutchinson, chief executive of Hodder Headline, is in talks with the big supermarkets to put his books into the supermarkets at 20% off the full published price.

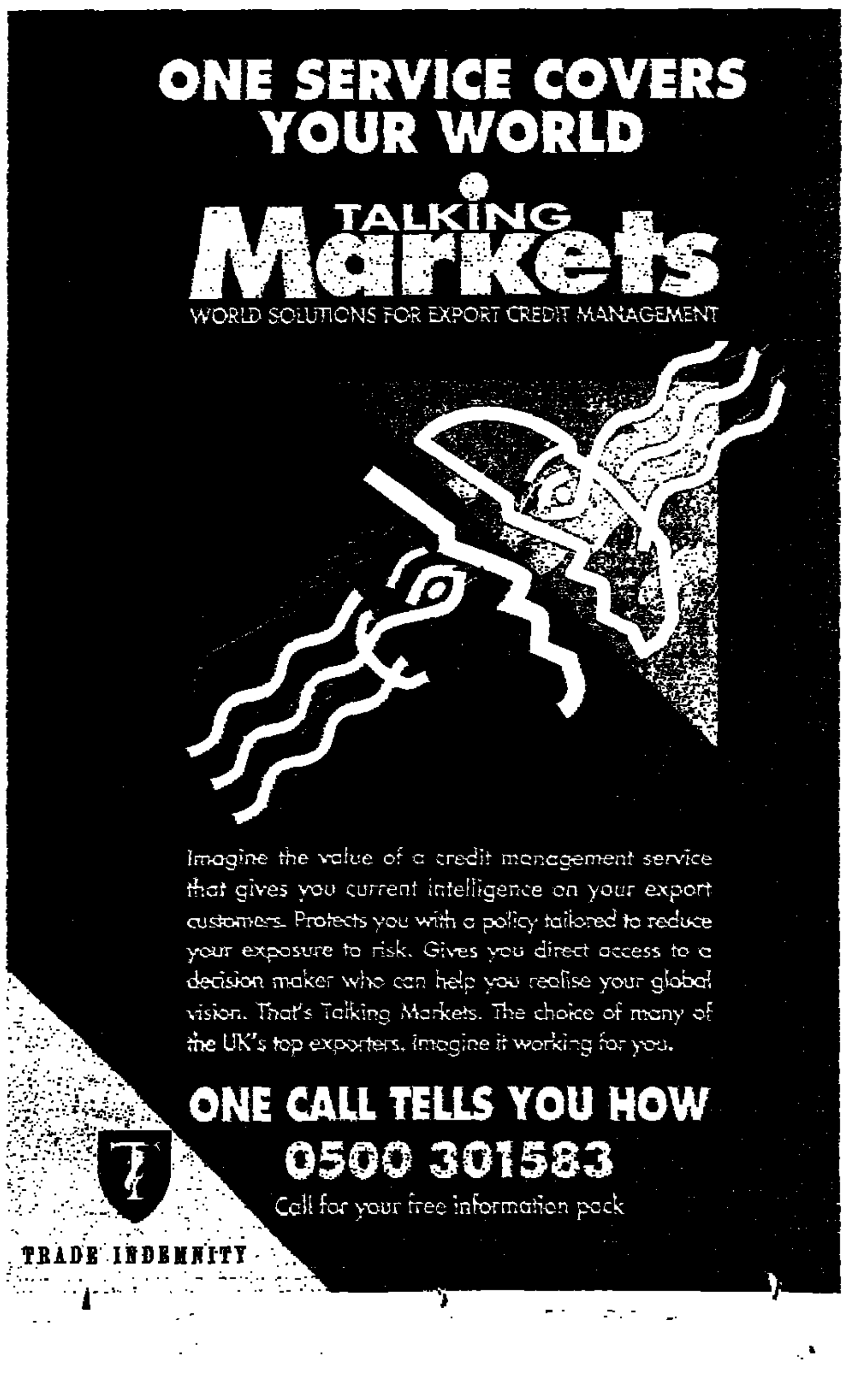
Meanwhile, several grocers are known to be examining ways around the Net Book Agreement which prevents most publishers from discounting.

Hodder Headline is one of two of the biggest five publishers that have already said they will no longer comply with the NBA, and two forthcoming blockbusters, Le Carré's *Our Game* and King's *Rose Madder*, due out from Hodder this summer could be the final testing ground for the agreement.

Mr Hely Hutchinson said the death of the NBA had been forecast for at least 20 years — "it's had more lives than a cat." But he was hopeful that if just one of the high street grocers decided to discount forthcoming best sellers from all publishers this summer, the rest would be forced for commercial reasons to follow. This would, in turn, put further pressure on bookshops to cut the price of all new books, a move most have so far been unwilling to make.

His company was unveiling the first full-year benefits of the merger between Headline and Hodder & Stoughton in June 1993, with pre-tax profits more than tripled in 1994 from £2.61 million to £8.16 million. Hodder is paying a 4p final, raising the total 1p to 6p out of earnings of 15.7p. The company plans to boost the number of new books published this year by 900 to 2,600, half this increase coming from new ventures and acquisitions.

Several grocers are already well advanced in their plans to discount. Asda attempted to cut prices on some popular titles in February, but was prevented from doing so by an injunction from the Publishers Association. A spokesman said last night any further moves would probably await a Commons select committee inquiry into the NBA after Easter.



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TRADE INDEMNITY

Wace agrees £9m sale

Wace, the printing services company, has conditionally agreed to dispose of its German and Italian imaging businesses for an aggregate £9.3 million.

Wace also announced a rise in 1994 pre-tax profits to £23.1 million from £15.9 million. The total dividend is 5.25p a share (3.5p), with a final 3.75p.

Astec ahead

Astec BSR, the power conversion and electronic components company, improved profits to £21 million before tax in 1994 from £14.9 million in the previous year. The total dividend rises to 1.2p a share from 0.75p, with a 0.8p final, due June 6.

IBC rises

International Business Communications (Holdings), the business information company, saw operating profits rise to £10.8 million in 1994 from £7.5 million in the previous year. There is a final dividend of 5p a share, making a total of 6.5p (2p).

ITN post

Stewart Purves, editor in chief of ITN, will succeed David Gordon as chief executive of the news organisation.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.30	2.13
Austria Sch	16.83	15.33
Belgium Fr	49.29	44.99
Canada $	2.340	2.180
Cyprus Cyp£	0.757	0.702
Denmark Kr	9.53	8.73
Finland Mkk	7.59	6.94
France Fr	8.35	7.70
Germany Dm	2.40	2.19
Greece Dr	384.00	359.00
Hong Kong $	12.99	11.99
Ireland Pt	1.05	0.97
Israel	5.2723	4.5223
Italy Lira	2815.00	2660.00
Japan Yen	157.50	141.50
Malta	0.603	0.548
Netherlds Gld	2.672	2.442
Norway Kr	10.59	9.79
Portugal Esc	247.50	229.00
S Africa Rd	ref.	5.34
Spain Pta	213.00	200.00
Sweden Kr	12.25	11.45
Switzerland Fr	1.99	1.81
Turkey Lira	refer	64743.0
USA $	1.695	1.565

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

DES JENSON

Colin Parsons, Taylor Woodrow's chairman, announced group profits 68 per cent ahead at £50.8 million

Britain and Europe link arms on weapons

By Ross Tieman, industrial correspondent

BRITAIN is campaigning for the establishment of a joint defence procurement agency with leading members of the Western European Union, based upon a collaborative agenda drawn up by France and Germany but widened to embrace programmes being developed by Britain and Italy. The agency would direct spending of tens of billions of pounds upon common weapons systems for Europe's armies, navies and air forces.

Agreement would trigger a rapid consolidation of the European armaments industry. By speeding the adoption of common weapons, it would also facilitate collaboration between European forces in peacekeeping roles and reduce the risk of armed conflict within Europe. The primary goal would be to reduce the cost of weapons by sharing development costs between nations and extending production runs.

Britain, which rivals France as Europe's biggest weapons maker, has a £10 billion a year weapons industry, and more than 100,000 jobs at stake.

Alarm at the speed and implications of consolidation has prompted a joint inquiry into Britain's defence procurement policies by MPs on the cross-party parliamentary industry and defence committees. By the time Roger Freeman, the Defence Procurement Minister, gives evidence in May, however, progress towards a common procurement agreement may be well advanced. After lobbying by Malcolm Rifkind, the British Defence Minister, in December, French and German defence chiefs agreed last week to open their planned joint procurement agency to British membership.

Mr Freeman told Francois Leotard and Volker Rühe, the French and German Defence Ministers, at a Paris meeting of the Western European Armaments Group, that Britain was willing to work through a European agency in four key programmes. It is also pushing for membership to be extended to Italy, and other leading arms buyers, in an effort to achieve optimum programme size.

Ministers are also insisting that participation must not be a bar to continued collaboration with the United States, which, although the biggest rival to the European arms industry, is also an important partner for Britain on some programmes. The largest programme offered by Britain for collaboration within a Euro-agency is the Horizon frigate. The vessel is being jointly developed by Britain, France and Italy in a 22-ship, £6 billion programme. Britain would be the biggest customer, with plans to buy 12 vessels.

Ministry of Defence officials believe that the Eurofighter 2000 programme to build a new fighter plane for the air forces of Britain, Germany, Italy and Spain will not be included. Discussions about workshare arrangements triggered by Germany's decision to reduce its order from 250 aircraft, on a par with that of Britain, to just 140 are making progress and a memorandum of understanding could be signed by the end of April.

Substantial cuts due at Taylor Woodrow

By Eric Reguly

TAYLOR WOODROW, the construction, housing and trading group, said yesterday that it would make "substantial cuts" in its British construction business, which weakened in 1993 and shows little sign of turning around.

Tony Palmer, chief executive, said: "All our indications are that volume is deteriorating and the pressure on margins is becoming even more severe with the present oversupply situation."

He would not give details other than to say that operations and overhead costs would have to be heavily cut. Redundancies seem inevitable. The domestic construction division has about 2,500 employees, down from about 3,200 in 1993, when the company's global construction business was restructured.

Taylor Woodrow's construction arm made a profit of £4 million in 1994 (£1.3 million), but only after recording an £8-million, one-off gain on the sale of Eurotunnel shares. The company was a member of the TML Anglo-French consortium that built the tunnel.

The downturn in domestic construction reduced the company's 1994 operating profit to £45.2 million (£47.7 million). Pre-tax profits, however, climbed 68 per cent to £50.8 million on turnover that remained flat at £1.15 billion.

The profits from the Eurotunnel sale and a strong housing market in most of its markets are behind the sharply higher pre-tax earnings. Profits from worldwide housing construction climbed 133 per cent to £21 million.

Taylor Woodrow's trading division, which reported separately for the first time, made profits of £4.7 million (£1.3 million). The subsidiary includes Greenham Trading, which sells industrial clothing and cleaning products.

The final dividend is being raised by 50 per cent, to 1.5p, payable on July 3. The shares closed near their year low, at 115½p, down 7½p.

Tempus, page 24

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Co-op supply deal profits Hobson

HOBSON, the former shell company that bought the Co-op's food manufacturing business last year, has extended its exclusive contract to supply the Co-op with own-label products until virtually the end of the century. The company announced a £6 million profit on continuing operations, due mainly to the seven-month performance of the Co-op food manufacturing business acquired for £111 million last April, before exceptional costs in the year to December 31.

The result was transformed into a loss of £11.2 million by losses of £2.6 million on discontinued businesses and net exceptional costs of £14.6 million. Andrew Regan, chief executive, said profits and margins were helped by £1 million of cost reductions and that 1995 profits should benefit from the full £7.7 million annual saving. Hobson is paying a final dividend of 0.4p, which is covered 2.5 times out of pre-exceptional earnings from continuing operations. The shares fell 1½p to 25½p.

Bowthorpe shortlist

BOWTHORPE, the international electronics and electrical group, has drawn up a shortlist of candidates to succeed Dr John Westhead, who retires as chief executive at the end of this year. An appointment is expected within two to three months. Yesterday the company reported 1994 pre-tax profits of £65.9 million (£51.1 million), ahead of City expectations. The company's shares rose 15½p to 316½p. There is a final dividend of 6.29p a share, due July 3, making a total of 8.25p (6.91p). Earnings were 19.87p (17.89p).

Coats Viyella yarn sale

COATS VIYELLA has sold virtually all its yarns and fabrics division and textured jersey business to a management buyout team backed by Legal & General Ventures for £89.4 million. Coats has agreed to reinvest £9.2 million of the proceeds in return for a 19 per cent shareholding in the new company as well as £12.5 million in loan notes. Jim Harrison, the head of the division, will become chief executive of the newly created business. Neville Bain, Coats' chief executive, said the group would incur a £40 million loss on the disposal.

Moir quits Jeyes board

JIMMY MOIR, formerly chief executive of Jeyes Group, has resigned as deputy chairman as the household products company, now under new management, disclosed pre-tax losses of £4.2 million for 1994, compared with profits of £1.7 million previously. Losses included exceptional costs of £3.8 million after widespread restructuring. There is no final dividend, reducing the total payout for the year to 3.3p a share from 8.1p. Loss per share was 16.2p (earnings of 6p).

Brixton disappoints

SHARES in Brixton Estate slipped back yesterday as the company revealed a disappointing 2.9 per cent underlying uplift in the value of its portfolio. The property group, which holds more than 80 per cent of its assets — mainly industrial real estate — in London and the Home Counties, reported a 5 per cent rise in net asset value, to 202p. The full-year dividend rises by 5 per cent to 8.4p after a 7 per cent increase in pre-tax profit to £32.6 million.

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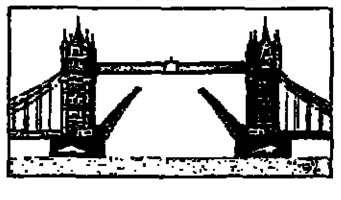
هكذا من الأصل

☐ Government seriously wants to sell the nuclear industry ☐ Prospects for two new banks ☐ Rewards on the buses

The real ultimate privatisation

PENNINGTON



☐ HAVING sold the family silver, the Government is now picking out gold teeth from the skeletons in its cupboard. The railways are already being launched along a rickety privatisation track. Now ministers have spotted a glow in the dimmest recesses: the nuclear industry.

The Government's yet-to-be-published nuclear review will reach anodyne conclusions. But the Cabinet has already begun to debate the merits of going for a quick sale of Nuclear Electric, the biggest non-fossil generator. Treasury ministers are understood to be keen: industry ministers, in whom ownership is vested, appear more hesitant.

Britain's nuclear industry consists of four elements. The Atomic Energy Authority is the research agency that designed and developed reactors and built nuclear weapons. Fuel and reprocessing services are provided by BNFL. Generation is carried out by Nuclear Electric and its small Scottish sister, Scottish Nuclear.

Privatisation has already begun, albeit in a small way. The clean-up liabilities of the AEA, around £4 billion, have been vested in a new "government division". The remainder, AEA Technology, will be sold this autumn for around £250 million. To sell the generators, the Government would need to perform a comparable sleight of hand with Nuclear Electric and Scottish Nuclear.

Nuclear Electric has seven Magnox plants which are nearing the end of their useful lives. No one will buy them. Five more modern gas-cooled stations, and the new Sizewell C pressurised water plant, generate twice as much power, and offer the prospect, with a little more cost cutting, of a profitable on-going business. This is what ministers hope to sell.

First catch: decommissioning liabilities. At Nuclear Electric, these are budgeted at £27 billion. The company has ample time and revenue to provide for the newer plants. But if the latter are privatised, how will the £8 billion Magnox decommissioning be funded?

Scottish Nuclear, with two gas-cooled stations and a defunct Magnox plant, has £2 billion of liabilities, of which £1.4 billion relate to the Magnox plant. According to a study by local authorities opposing plans for a new atomic plant at Hinckley Point, if the Magnox liabilities were transferred to BNFL, as has been proposed, even applying the privatisation proceeds might leave a shortfall of up to £4 billion by 2014.

Second catch: monopoly power. In his evidence to the nuclear review, Stephen Littlechild, the electricity regulator, called for a reshuffle of assets between Scottish Nuclear, which has half the Scottish electricity market, and Nuclear Electric, which has a quarter of the market in England and Wales.

Third catch: most investors are still chary about atomic assets and liabilities. All that glows is not gold.

Look East from West Yorkshire

☐ FEW days herald two giant new banks. In gross balance sheet assets, there is no contest. Tokyo Mitsubishi Bank will weigh in at $830 billion, the Halifax with the Leeds in its belly at about $145 billion. In Britain, where the total assets controlled by Barclays are barely $100 billion higher, the eventual emergence of the Halifax bank is almost as significant. Both exemplify trends that will change the high street and world markets.

Top building societies edged into gaps left by the clearers. Their consolidation went too far and ambition was transferred to a wider stage. Only Lloyds, which saw the perils early and rationalised almost to excess, has focused back on personal loans via the Cheltenham & Gloucester. The enlarged Halifax will be wise to follow the example of Abbey National, which pioneered conversion to bank status, rather than TSB, which started by trying to ape those it foolishly thought its betters. Even so, the temptations for Halifax will be great if the housing market, where it will be by far the biggest lender, continues to stagnate. The discipline of constant cost-cutting is less fun, and less creative, than the lure of expansive diversification. Big as the Halifax bank will be, its millions of prospective small shareholders should hope that it sticks to providing products and services for retail customers.

A swift glance at the prospective TMB should convince Halifax's sensible board of caution's continuing virtues. In part, banks are bigger in Japan because they play a bigger role in the domestic economy. This merger may not be born of weakness. As Mitsubishi realised, however, balance sheet size is not enough to play effectively on the world stage. Bank of Tokyo found that domestic bulk was still necessary, even if its foreign focus helped during Japan's financial subsidence.

If TMB is to set the standard for a Japanese universal bank, it will be a challenging one for European and American rivals, many of which have been stuck in retrenchment. For those in the middle, including independent British merchant banks and clearers such as NatWest, tensions will surely grow between caution and ambition.

Stick with the workers

☐ EMPLOYEE buyouts are both the least controversial and the most heart-warming variant of privatisation. As the pioneering work at the National Freight Consortium showed, they can also provide much stronger and more productive motivation throughout an organisation than any munificent share options for executive directors. Few will begrudge the £38,000 share and cash packages that ordinary employees in West Midlands Travel should soon be able to cash, or even the much greater rewards for WMT's chairman, even though these might imply an original undervaluation more spectacular than at any privatised utility.

Unfortunately, as so often, these sums only become apparent when a takeover heralds the end of this system of truly popular capitalism. Even NFC has become more and more a conventional quoted company, partly to finance its ambitions and partly to satisfy its new institutional shareholders.

Evidently, this need not happen. The John Lewis Partnership has demonstrated that an employee-owned business can outgrow its competitors by reinvesting profits, even if has proved the tortoise that beat many more flashy hares of the department store business.

If WMT's share-owning employees choose to stay with National Express, they will control a goodly chunk of it. The enlarged company would do well to adopt this cuture rather than let it fade into extinction.

Fantasy banking

☐ AHEAD of the Federal Reserve's meeting, pollsters found no economist expecting a rate rise. Evidently, central banks could ditch currency speculators if they wanted to. A rise in Fed rates, followed by a jump in Japan's discount rate and a cut in Germany's, would pave the way for co-ordinated — but randomly computer-generated — movements over the next year. The ensuing confusion should soon make people ignore short-term interest rates and do no harm at all to the world economy.

KIPPA MATTHEWS

Tasty figures: Bernard Leigh, group finance director of Iceland Group, left, and Malcolm Walker, the chairman

Iceland warms to frozen foods again

By Susan Gilchrist

ICELAND Group, the supermarket chain, is to put renewed emphasis on its core frozen foods business as part of its strategy of becoming the most profitable specialist retailer in the industry.

Malcolm Walker, the chairman, admitted that the group had neglected its frozen foods side in recent years as it sought to build up a presence in fresh and chilled foods. "We took our eye off the ball," he said.

The group launched a total of just 85 new frozen products last year, its lowest number in recent history. This year it plans to raise the status of frozen foods with 250 new product launches. Mr Walker denied it was a U-turn, saying it was more a case of fine tuning. He insisted that Iceland had a secure niche and was not being squeezed by the leading superstores at one end and the discounters at the other.

His remarks came as the group unveiled an 8 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £70.2 million, compared with £65.2 million, in the year to December 31. Total sales rose by 10 per cent, although like-for-like growth was flat.

The final dividend is lifted to 2.88p (2.60p), making a total payout to shareholders of 4.20p, compared with 3.80p last time. The dividend will be paid on May 26.

Marley acquires Syroco for $140m

By Carl Mortished

MARLEY, a company best known for its tiles and concrete blocks, is descending from the roof to the patio, acquiring America's largest maker of plastic garden furniture for $140 million in cash.

Marley is buying Syroco, which makes injection-moulded resin furniture and sells the products through mass-market retailers such as Walmart and K-mart across the United States.

Syroco has a 25 per cent share of what it calls the casual resin furniture market, a sector currently worth $330 million and consisting of monobloc stacking chairs, sunlounges, tables and children's furniture. The company also makes aluminium furniture.

Marley is raising £51.8 million in a one for six rights issue at 112p to help fund the deal. David Trapnell, chief executive, concedes that Syroco will have a slightly dilutive effect on Marley's earnings in 1995, but that benefits will accrue.

Syroco uses the same injection-moulding technology as Marley's plastic operations and made operating profits of $16.1 million in 1994 on sales of $95.5 million. Marley warned that higher raw material costs could affect Syroco's margins in 1995.

Tempus, page 24

Oriana will sail on time, says Lord Sterling

By Martin Waller

THE *Oriana*, the latest addition to P&O's cruise fleet, will sail out of Southampton on her maiden voyage a week on Sunday in spite of the delays that have dogged her delivery, Lord Sterling, P&O's chairman, has promised.

The 69,000-tonne *Oriana* is in the North Sea undergoing trials and the builder, the Mayer Werft yard in northern Germany, has said delivery will be delayed by bad weather and propeller damage.

Lord Sterling said: "As far as the yard is concerned, they will deliver the ship at the end of this week." This would leave enough time for the official naming of the ship by the Queen a week on Thursday.

P&O says bookings are in line with expectations and are unaffected by the QE2 debacle, when the Trafalgar House flagship put to sea before a refit had been finished.

Lord Sterling was announcing full-year figures for 1994 that showed strong profit advances across the shipping-to-construction group, although he was forced to warn shareholders of the forthcoming impact of the Channel Tunnel on revenues once the latter is fully operational this summer, and of the impact if the dollar remains weak this year.

He said: "We expect the operation of the Channel Tunnel to lead to some reduction in the earnings of our ferries division, but the performance of our other divisions to move further ahead."

He said while it would be foolish not to anticipate some loss of profits from ferries in the next two to three years, strong market growth meant room for both ferries and the tunnel. "Nobody knows as yet quite how the market is going to develop."

But the Tunnel's £700 million of debt made the project more susceptible than P&O to falling revenues. "If the Tunnel wanted to create a price war in due course, they are aware more than anybody that they are the ones who would be hit the hardest."

P&O made pre-tax profits of £349.5 million in 1994, a fall from a reported figure of £520.6 million that included substantial one-off earnings from disposals. The directly-comparable figure, therefore, is of profits of £341.4 million that rose from £242.2 million last time.

A 17p final dividend makes a total unchanged at 30.5p, covered by headline earnings up by 10p to 37.6p.

The sharpest rises in operating profits among the main divisions came from ferries, 49 per cent higher at £113.9 million, and containers, 50 per cent up at £63.2 million.

Bovis Homes managed an 18 per cent rise to £13.2 million, and Lord Sterling said the British housebuilding market was so far this year "substantially up" on the start of 1994.

Tempus, page 24

Makro move to take control spurned

Nurdin rejects merger offer

NURDIN & PEACOCK yesterday firmly rejected an offer by SHV Makro, the Dutch group, for the two companies to merge their UK cash and carry operations. (Susan Gilchrist writes).

SHV, which has a 14 per cent shareholding in N&P, had proposed that the British firm should give it a majority stake in exchange for SHV's UK business. It has also offered a special dividend of 19p a share as an inducement to other shareholders.

Richard Fulford, N&P's chairman, dismissed SHV's approach as an attempt to acquire control of the group without the payment of a control premium. "It is not in the interests of our shareholders to become minority shareholders in a company controlled by a private entity." Mr Fulford said he had the backing of the Peacock family who own about 30 per cent of the shares.

SHV has ruled out a full bid. Folkert Schukken, its chairman, said the group was unwilling to commit large sums to the UK market when it had a number of expansion opportunities overseas.

Fulford: dismissive

Nevertheless, analysts believe N&P is still vulnerable to an outside predator. One said: "This effectively puts them into play." N&P's share price jumped 12p to 183p.

N&P and SHV are the second and third largest players behind Booker in the UK cash and carry market. SHV believes combining the two businesses would save £15 million a year and provide more potent opposition to the supermarkets.

The development comes after a difficult period for N&P. In January the group gave warning that profits for 1994 would be halved from the £32 million made in 1993 and a week ago it announced it was abandoning Cargo Club, its warehouse club format.

Hickson hit by soap wars

Hickson, the speciality chemicals group, said its profits for last year were damaged by the soap wars between Unilever and Procter & Gamble.

Last year Unilever stopped buying manganese catalyst, the controversial ingredient in the Persil Power detergent made by Hickson's Pharma-Chem unit. The company said the loss of this business would knock £8 million off potential profits in 1995 and 1996, which would be hard to make up from elsewhere.

Pre-tax profits were 13 per cent lower at £19.2 million. The final dividend has been cut by 3p to 2.15p, payable on June 12, making a full dividend of 5p, down from 8p in 1993. Earnings per share were 8.9p.

Cole's cost

Manchester United's purchase of footballer Andy Cole from Newcastle United for £6.25 million — a British record transfer fee — has hit half-time profits.

In the six months to January 31, pre-tax profits eased to £7.3 million from £7.6 million. Profits were struck after net transfer expenditure of £3.9 million, compared with income of £800,000 previously.

At the operating level profits rose sharply to £10.8 million from £6.6 million. Turnover advanced to £36.4 million from £22.8 million. Earnings of 8.3p a share compared with 8.6p previously. The interim dividend is lifted to 1.4p a share, due May 17, from 1.3p. The shares rose 4p to 129p.

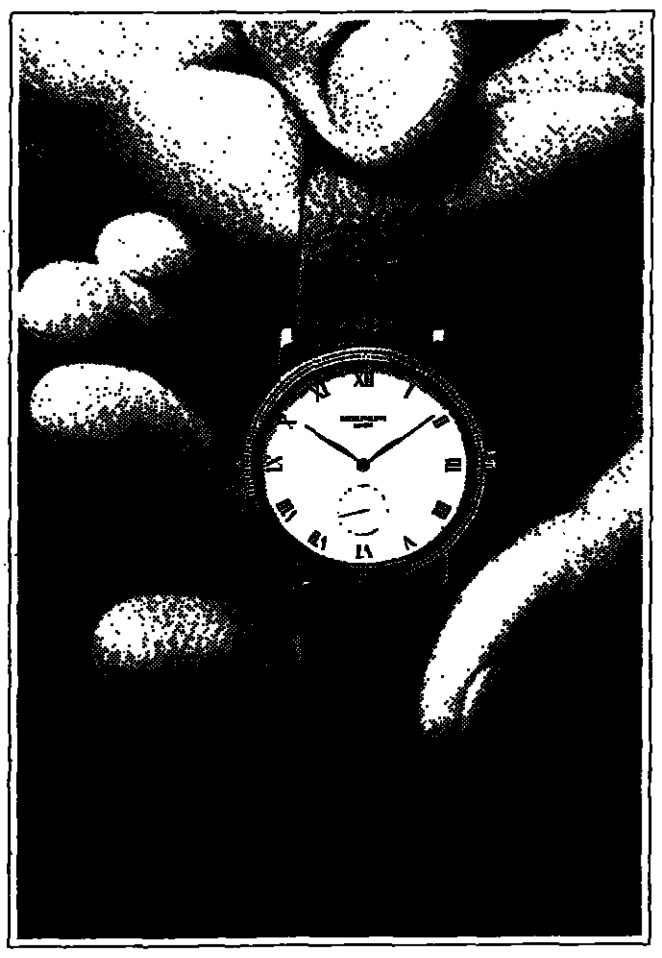
Lending fall

British bank mortgage lending fell in February, a development which indicated that confidence in the housing market remains low, according to the British Bankers' Association.

Gross lending was £1.11 billion in February, 6 per cent down on the £1.18 billion leant in January. Net lending, which is seasonally adjusted, fell further to £597 million in February from £654 million in January.

Norwich direct

Norwich Union, Britain's biggest motor insurer, will next month launch a pilot scheme to sell motor and household insurance direct to customers using Yellow Pages. Sales of life policies are slumping.



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STOCK MARKET

PHILIP PANGALOS

Vickers lightens gloom as profit expectations rise

SHARES in Vickers, the Rolls-Royce cars-to-Challenger tanks engineering group, bucked the gloomy market trend, with healthy demand developing after Henderson Crosthwaite recommended buying the shares and upgraded its profits expectations.

Henderson says strong recovery is taking place under the new management team, and has lifted its 1995 and 1996 profit forecasts by £5 million to £70 million and £85 million respectively, while 1997's potential pre-tax profits are seen at about £100 million. Vickers, which is due to host a one-day analysts' visit to its KaMeWa marine propulsion operation in Sweden next Monday, ended 3p higher at 184p.

Meanwhile, shares drifted lower, in spite of the Bank of England Governor's hint that he is unlikely to press for a rise in interest rates at his meeting with the Chancellor next week. Traders were nervous before the Federal Open Markets Committee meeting in America to discuss US interest rate policy and tomorrow's Bundesbank council meeting on German rates.

There was light profit-taking and a technical markdown in the wake of a sharp fall in the futures market. A negative start to trading on Wall Street further depressed sentiment in London, with shares ending near their lows.

The FT-SE 100 index closed 21.5 points lower at 3,128.3. Second-liners saw more limited falls, with the FT-SE 250 index down 3.7 to 3,416.2. Volume, again swollen by bed-and-breakfast deals before the end of the quarter this week, reached 749 million shares. The bulk of activity was dominated by results and trading statements.

Builders were in the spotlight after Marley unveiled a £52 million one-for-six rights issue, at 112p a share, to part-finance the £87.7 million acquisition of Syroco, an American garden furniture group. Marley shares fell 11½p to 122½p.

Elsewhere, shares in **Taylor Woodrow**, the construction, property and housing group, slid 7½p to 115½p as it disappointed the market in spite of higher full-year profits after cautious noises on deteriorating volume in UK construction. But the group is relatively cheerful on the housing market, which boosted other housebuilders. **Barratt Developments** rose 7p to 185p, **Berkeley Group**, 3p to 361p, **Bryant**, 5p to 133p, and **Wilson Connolly**, 4p to 157p.

Bowthorpe rose 15½p to 316½p after a better-than-expected 29 per cent jump in 1994 profits.

Elsewhere, shares in **AAH**, the drugs retailer and wholesaler, added 6p to 440p, giving a two-day gain of 9p. Speculators are increasingly convinced that Gehe, the German healthcare group bidding for AAH, may dig deeper and raise its offer. Gehe's existing 420p cash bid, valuing AAH at £377 million, was extended to April 13 after receiving a mere 1.92 per cent acceptances by the first closing date last Friday, giving Gehe a 3.98 per cent stake.

Badgerline, the bus and coach operator chaired by Trevor Smallwood, firmed 2½p to 135½p after acquisitions and improved margins helped it drive to bigger full-year profits.

Hickson International, the speciality chemicals group, slid 4p to 131p after the company cut its final dividend to 2.15p (5.15p), giving 5p (8p) for the year, as the impact of the "soap wars" eroded 1994 profits. Hickson's PharmaChem operation, which developed a new bleach activator for Unilever's Persil brand, has been hit by the prolonged battle between **Unilever**, up 5p at £12.11, and Procter & Gamble. The results were accompanied by news of the departure of Michael Rowley as finance director.

Jeyes Group tumbled 19p to 145p after it accompanied a slide into the red with news that Jimmy Moir, its former chief executive, has resigend as non-executive chairman.

Guinness fell 9½p to 446p after reports of profit-taking and switching into **Grand Metropolitan**, unchanged at 391p. There was also evidence of profit-taking and American selling at **SmithKline Beecham**, 12½p lower at 501½p.

Legal & General firmed ½p to 470p, with Flemings said to be advising a switch into L&G from **Prudential**, unchanged at 318½p.

Nurdin & Peacock jumped 12p to 183p as it emerged that SHV Makro, the Dutch operator of the Makro cash and carry chain, had approached the discount food retailer in January with a view to a reverse takeover. Nurdin said the terms of the proposed deal were unacceptable, but added that if Makro was serious, it would consider any new proposals.

Inchcape recovered some of Monday's falls, with the shares adding 11p to 289p, on heavy volume of 4.68 million shares, as income funds were attracted to the yield of almost 7 per cent and vague bid talk emerged after recent poor results.

Fisons were also a good market, adding 7½p to 172½p, on volume of 3.64 million shares, amid renewed bid talk and hopes of further good news.

Speculative interest lifted **Lasmo** 2p to 165p, while **Enterprise**, which retains a 9.8 per cent stake since its failed bid last year, added 2p to 397p.

Newcomer **Expro International**, which specialises in oilfield services, ended unchanged at 175p.

GILT-EDGED: Gilts gradually drifted lower with weaker overseas bond markets, though losses were extended after stronger than expected US consumer confidence figures. Most investors remained on the sidelines before this morning's £2 bilion auction of Treasury 8 per cent 2015.

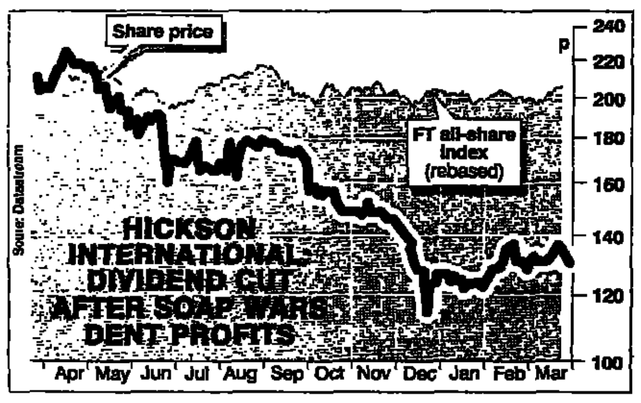
The June long gilt fell £¼ to £103, on volume of 28,000 contracts. Among conventional stocks, losses extended to £⅜ for longer-dated issues, while index-linked lost up to £¼.

☐ **NEW YORK:** At midday, the Dow Jones industrial average was 15.56 points lower at 4,141.78

MARTIN BEDDALL

- Trevor Smallwood of Badgerline reported top-deck profits

LONDON & Associated Investment Trust, the specialist retail property investment company, was unchanged at 30p, but SG Warburg says the shares are undervalued and estimates the net asset value at 51p a share. Results due next month are expected to show profits ahead to £1.7 million (£1.5 million).



MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 4141.78 (−15.56)
S&P Composite 502.49 (−0.71)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 16681.73 (+585.48)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 8827.95 (+140.39)

Amsterdam:
EOE Index 392.77 (−0.47)

Sydney:
AO 1899.7 (−9.11)

Frankfurt:
DAX 1910.96 (−35.94)

Singapore:
Straits 2104.24 (+13.67)

Brussels:
General 6812.68 (−8.15)

Paris:
CAC-40 1837.19 (+1.09)

Zurich:
SKA Gen 588.50 (−2.20)

London:
FT 30 2395.4 (−22.0)
FT 100 3128.3 (−21.5)
FT-SE Mid 250 3416.2 (−3.7)
FT-SE-A 350 1552.8 (−8.6)
FT-SE Eurotrack 100 1242.45 (−12.23)
FT A All-Share 1533.00 (−7.81)
FT Non Financials 1652.49 (−8.70)
FT Fixed Interest 110.48 (−0.03)
FT Govt Secs 91.79 (−0.20)
Bargains 36470
SEAQ Volume 749.0m
USM (Datastrm) 147.04 (+0.04)
US$ 1.6005 (+0.0045)
German Mark 2.2404 (−0.0079)
Exchange Index 85.4 (same)
Bank of England official close (4pm)
£:ECU 1.2101
£:SDR 1.0358
RPI 146.9 Feb (3.4%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Albright & Wilson (150)	163	−2
Beale	180	...
Colleagues	141	...
Dailywin (128)	130	...
Datrontech (130)	136	...
Expro Intl (175)	175	...
Geared Inc Inv C (100)	100	...
Golden Rose Cms (135)	119	...
HTR Inc/Gth Split (100)	101	...
-ditto- Split Div Pf (100)	104½	−½
Inv Capital Wts	19	...
Inv Tst of Inv Tsts	84	...
Inv Tst of Inv Tsts Wts	56	...
Melrose Energy Wts	3½	...
Mont UK Smlr Co's (100)	95	...
-ditto- Wts	43	...
Natl Power (p/p) (476)	164½	−2½
PowerGen (p/p) (512)	184½	−2½
Schrdr Inc Gwth Fd Uts	517	+3
Superframe Group (50)	43	...
Superframe Wts	7	...
Throg Dual Zero Div Pf	102	...
Zotefoams (145)	175	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Acorn Computer n/p (80)	5½	...
Beauford n/p (28)	¼	−¼
Horace Sml App n/p (90)	34	...
Rhino Group n/p (8)	¼	...
Unit Group n/p (39)	1½	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:
Inchcape 289p (+11p)
Antofagasta 278p (+15p)
Intl Bus Comms 244p (+9p)

FALLS:
Courtaulds 444p (−10p)
BICC 332p (−8p)
Phonelink 237p (−18p)
Tadpole Tech 217p (−12p)
Telspec 407p (−10p)
British Aerospace 487p (−8p)
Siebe 554p (−9p)
GKN 605p (−9p)
Amersham 845p (−10p)

Closing Prices Page 27

TEMPUS

Taylor slims down

TAYLOR WOODROW yesterday gave a good imitation of an estate agent puffing up the merits of the fitted kitchen and carpets to a homebuyer while rain pours through gaping holes in the ceiling. Last year, the company made money from almost everything except construction and investors are left with the impression that the company would gladly leave the FT-Actuaries construction sector if it were possible to hide £600 million of revenue.

Not every construction contract is loss-making and Taylor is earning money overseas. That accounts for only £90 million of the business and the market was given a rude jolt when the company booked £8 million of construction profit from the sale of its Eurotunnel shares. The company piled on further gloom by announcing that it was pulling back further from UK construction. Taylor cannot be criticised for refusing to chase contracts which offer negative margins, but the company's strategy overseas is unlikely to replace its declining UK business. International contracting is dominated by bigger fish and Taylor needs a partner to win more than the occasional prize.

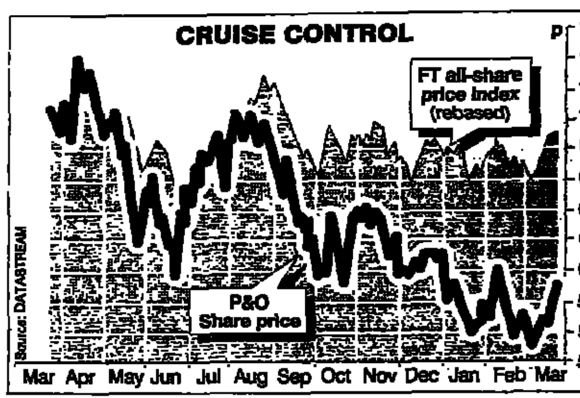
Today, profits are coming from housing, but the homes markets in the UK and Australia look shaky and only middling in Canada and the US. Investors can also rely on Taylor's property portfolio for a regular contribution, but these are a less than convincing reason to buy shares in a construction company yielding 2.4 per cent when Land Securities and Beazer Homes yield nearer 5 per cent. If Taylor Woodrow resumes its share buy-back programme this year, investors should take the hint and sell.

P&O

P&O will be sailing through choppy waters over the next few months with the Channel Tunnel up and running, a point made explicit with the full-year figures yesterday. The group has the advantage of more flexibility than the hopelessly debt-burdened Tunnel operator, but Lord Sterling, the P&O chairman, was keeping his cards close to his chest about future strategy yesterday.

The options are to switch ships away from cross-Channel routes or to aggressively undercut Eurotunnel on price. To an extent the latter is already happening, with special offers available to most passengers, but the true test will come once the peak summer season coincides with the full operation of the Tunnel. The final option is to accept some unspecified loss of volume to the Tunnel and press ahead in the hope that the various governments will permit a cosy deal between the cross-Channel ferry operators to cut capacity once the damage from the Tunnel can be quantified.

All this has overshadowed a set of figures that showed improvements in trading pretty well across the board. P&O shares fell because the group failed to achieve some of the more toppy profit forecasts, and the performance of the dollar looks set to overshadow this year's figures. The group is on course to make £350 million and upwards pre-tax in 1995, but the shares, selling on almost 15 times' earnings, look set to drift for now.



Dawson Intl.

THE harshest judgment the City can make on a director's performance is to lift the share price when he is ousted. Sir Ronald Miller, former chairman of Dawson International, and Nick Kuenssberg, its former managing director, now find themselves in precisely that unenviable position. At 104p the shares are still well below their 235p high, but they are back on an upward trend for the first time in many months, suggesting the market would have welcomed speedier action from the board.

The share price rose in spite of bad news elsewhere. Shareholders hoping last year's massive £50 million provision and £56 million goodwill write-off would be the end of it are proved sadly mistaken. Pringle of Scotland, a usually solid performer, is set to make an unexpected loss, and the US bathroom accessories business continues to haemorrhage money. It is now back up for sale, but given that Dawson failed to find a buyer willing to pay a decent price six months ago, there seems little reason why it should do so now and further provisions look inevitable.

Dawson may have reached the nadir of its fortunes, but, with raw material prices still rising, and competition, particularly from China, intensifying, the way back up looks long and arduous.

Marley

AFTER years shifting surplus bricks, blocks and roof tiles through the recession, Marley's heavyside operations started making good profits last year and the market was expecting Marley to bolt a new company on to a cleaned-up balance sheet. The question is whether Syroco, the injection moulded garden furniture maker is the ideal candidate.

Syroco was highly profitable last year, earning net margins of 17 per cent which could increase to 18 after adding back some admin costs. Unfortunately, Syroco is about to suffer a profits shock due to a 50 per cent rise to the price of polypropylene resin, the principal raw material, and the market estimates the gross margin could fall from 33 per cent to 25 per cent which could take net margins down to 15 per cent. Marley reckons this will be a temporary setback to a business which is growing fast.

Doubtless, raw material prices will settle down, but Marley may find it trickier to recover the whole of the lost margin. A bigger question is whether a company with its roots in commodity building materials is comfortable marketing fashionable sunloungers. In Europe, plastic furniture is a mature sector with low entry barriers. The US could follow suit, causing Syroco to lose its high margins and leaving Marley sitting with a headache on its sunlounger.

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

COCOA

Mar	940-936	May	1019-1017
May	945-944	Jul	1030-1028
Jul	958-957	Sep	1043-1040
Sep	975-974	Dec	1057-1053
Dec	991-989		
Mar	1009-1007	Volume: 4135	

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Mar	3055-3000	Nov	2901-2900
May	3014-3010	Jan	2890-2885
Jul	2966-2965	Mar	2880-2860
Sep	2940-2932	Volume: 2823	

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Dec	322.0-20.4
Spot: 383.0		Mar	318.0-15.8
May	378.0-77.8	May	317.9-14.8
Aug	366.0-64.0	Aug	315.9-12.5
Oct	332.5-31.4	Volume: 982	

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on March 27

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	91.34	129.39	123.58
(+/−)	−2.00	−0.24	+0.75
Eng/Wales:	91.44	129.64	123.52
(+/−)	−2.17	−0.53	+0.77
(%)	+3.0	−8.0	−4.0
Scotland:	88.24	128.30	124.21
(+/−)	+2.28	+0.69	+0.60
(%)	−9.0	−20.0	−10.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	17.85	+0.10
Brent 15 day (May)	17.30	n/c
Brent 15 day (Jun)	17.15	n/c
W Texas Intermediate (May)	19.00	+0.05
W Texas Intermediate (Jun)	18.80	n/c

PRODUCTS ($/MT)
Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

Premium Gas .15	B: 176 (+1)	O: 178 (+1)
Gasoil EEC	156 (n/c)	157 (n/c)
Non EEC 1H Apr	155 (n/c)	157 (+1)
Non EEC 1H May	153 (n/c)	154 (n/c)
3.5 Fuel Oil	96 (−1)	98 (−1)
Naphtha	169 (−1)	171 (−1)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Apr	153.50-53.75	Jul	151.75-52.25
May	151.25-51.50	Aug	153.50-53.75
Jun	150.75-51.00	Vol: 30484	

BRENT (6.00pm)

May	17.30-17.32	Aug	16.87-16.92
Jun	17.12-17.13	Sep	16.80-16.85
Jul	16.95-16.98	Vol: 20556	

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)		BARLEY (close £/t)	
May	113.90	May	109.00
Jul	114.70	Sep	100.15
Sep	100.30	Nov	101.00
Nov	101.45	Jan	103.15
Jan	103.40	Mar	104.90
Volume: 137		Volume: 1	

POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Apr	322.0	321.3
May	360.0	354.0
Jul	unq	—
Volume: 66		

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)
Apr 123.75-124.25

BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Mar 95	2265	2245	2240
Apr 95	2190	2130	2130
May 95	2106	2030	2035
Jul 95	1886	1835	1840

Vol: 356 lots Open interest: 4518
Index 2259 −22

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day)	Cash	3mth	Rudolf Wolff Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	2970.0-2971.0	2947.0-2948.0	1337550
Lead ($/tonne)	602.00-603.00	616.50-617.00	93600
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1028.0-1028.5	1055.0-1055.5	846525
Tin ($/tonne)	5770.0-5780.0	5825.0-5830.0	24805
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1841.0-1842.0	1869.5-1870.0	1080350
Nickel ($/tonne)	7691.0-7692.0	7835.0-7845.0	101802

LIFFE OPTIONS

Series		Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Puts Apr	Puts Jul	Puts Oct
Alld Dom.	500	29	38	45	2	14½	18
(*525½)	550	2½	12	20½	26	42	44½
Argyll	260	20	25½	30	1½	8	11
(*277)	280	7	13½	19	8	18	20½
ASDA	70	4½	7½	9	1½	2½	3½
(*74)	80	0	3	4½	7	8	9
Boots	500	18½	30	38½	4	17½	19½
(*514)	550	0½	7½	16½	36	48½	49½
Br Airways	390	14	25	33½	5½	17½	21½
(*397½)	420	2	11½	20½	24	39½	39
BP	420	12	23	32	5	12½	18½
(*426)	460	0½	7	15	34	37½	42
Br Steel	140	15½	19½	22	0	2½	4
(*154½)	160	2	7	10½	6½	10½	12½
C & W	390	9½	21	30	8½	19½	24
(*390)	420	1	9½	17½	30½	38½	42
CU	543	17	—	—	8	—	—
(*550)	592	1½	—	—	42½	—	—
ICI	700	37½	59	67½	3½	13½	21½
(*732½)	750	7½	29½	40½	24	34	45
Kingfishr	420	36	38½	47	1½	12	17
(*455)	460	6	16	26	20	31	36½
Land Sec	550	45	52	56	0	9½	12
(*592)	600	8	18	26	13	33	36
M & S	390	28	34	41	0½	6½	9½
(*416½)	420	5	14	23	8½	19	23
Nat West	500	30	40	53½	3	12	18
(*524)	550	4	19½	28½	28	34½	42
Sainsbury	420	10	20	28½	7	17½	21½
(*422½)	460	0½	5½	13	37½	45	47½
Shell	700	13½	33	46½	7	16	23½
(*704½)	750	0½	11	22½	45½	46½	52½
Smkl Bch	500	12	26½	38½	9½	22	27
(*501)	550	1	8½	18½	49	54½	58
Storehse	220	13	18½	22	1	5½	7
(*230½)	240	2½	7½	12	10½	15½	17
Trafalgar	50	9½	11½	12½	0	1	1½
(*59)	60	2	5½	7	2½	4½	5½
Unilever	1200	28½	65	69½	11	26	38½
(*1212½)	1250	7	39	60½	40½	52	60
Zeneca	850	40	67½	80½	6	20½	30½
(*880½)	900	12½	39	53	29½	43	53
Series		**May**	**Aug**	**Nov**	**May**	**Aug**	**Nov**
Grnd Met	390	13½	21	28½	10	17½	19½
(*391)	420	2½	9½	15½	30	35½	37
Ladbroke	160	11½	17	19½	3	6½	9½
(*166)	180	3	8	10½	15	17½	20
Utd Bisc	330	16	28	33½	9	15	19
(*334)	360	4½	16	20	27½	32	39½

March 28, 1995 Tot: 29183 Call: 14935 Put: 14248 FT-SE Call: 4635 Put: 9841

*Underlying security price.

Series		Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Puts Apr	Puts Jul	Puts Oct
BAA	450	26½	—	—	1½	—	—
(*473½)	475	9	—	—	9	—	—
Thames W	460	28	38	42	1½	15	18½
(*485)	500	3½	15	20½	18	37½	40½
Series		**May**	**Aug**	**Nov**	**May**	**Aug**	**Nov**
BAT Ind	420	24½	36½	43½	7½	17½	21
(*435)	460	6	16½	24½	28	39	42
BTR	300	28	36½	40	1½	4½	9
(*324)	330	8	17½	22	11½	16	22
Br Aero	448	40	—	—	4	—	—
(*486½)	487	19½	—	—	16½	—	—
Br Telcm	360	32	38½	41½	1½	7½	9½
(*387)	390	11	19	24	10	20½	22½
Cadbury	447	18	32	—	8	14½	—
(*454)	486	3	13½	—	33	36½	—
Guinness	430	27	34½	42	6½	11	14
(*446)	460	5	15	22½	28½	32	34½
GEC	280	17	22½	25½	3	9½	11½
(*291½)	300	6	11½	15½	12	20	22
Hanson	220	17½	21	23	1½	4½	7
(*234½)	240	4½	9½	12½	8½	13½	16½
LASMO	160	11½	15½	20	4	7	8½
(*164½)	180	3½	6½	11	16½	18½	19½
Lucas	180	17	22½	26½	2½	6	10
(*193½)	200	5½	12	16	12	15½	20
Pilkngtn	160	11½	14	17	2	5½	7½
(*168)	180	2	5	7½	13	16½	18
Prudential	300	24	33½	37½	3	7	9½
(*319)	330	6½	16½	20½	16	20	23
Redland	420	36	40	45	8½	13	19
(*454½)	460	9	19½	24½	29	35	39½
R-Royce	160	8	13½	16½	5½	8½	11
(*161)	180	1½	5½	8½	19½	21	23
Tesco	240	21	24½	27½	2	5	7½
(*259)	260	6½	12½	16½	10½	14	16½
Vodafone	200	12½	18½	24	5	9½	12
(*206)	220	3½	9½	15	16	20½	23
Williams	330	12	18½	21½	10½	15	19
(*336)	360	1½	7½	10½	33½	35½	38½

FT-SE INDEX (*3129)

	3000	3050	3100	3150	3200	3250
Calls						
Apr	140½	98	62½	36	17½	7
May	163½	126½	93	64	42½	27
Jun	179	142½	112½	84½	63	44½
Jul	202	168	138½	109½	88	66½
Dec	274	—	213½	—	163	—
Puts						
Apr	7	15½	29½	53½	87	129
May	21½	34½	51	73	102	137½
Jun	34	47½	68	90	118½	150½
Jul	49	64½	84	106	134	163½
Dec	88½	—	120	—	175	—

Series		Calls Jun	Calls Sep	Calls Dec	Puts Jun	Puts Sep	Puts Dec
Abby Nat	460	21	31	38	15½	22	24½
(*460)	500	6½	14	20½	42	46½	48
Amstrad	150	24	—	—	1½	—	—
(*170)	175	8½	—	—	11	—	—
Barclays	600	38½	51	62½	13½	24½	29½
(*616)	650	14	26½	38	40½	50½	55
Blue Circ	280	14½	20½	26	13½	18½	22
(*284½)	300	6½	12	18	27	30½	34
Br Gas	280	14	18½	21½	8½	12	16½
(*288)	300	4½	9½	13	21½	24	28½
Dixons	220	17½	20½	23½	6	12	13½
(*228)	240	7½	11	14	16½	23½	24½
Forte	220	17½	22	25	5½	8½	11
(*234)	240	6½	11½	15	16	19	21
Hillsdwn	180	9	13½	15½	8	11	13
(*185½)	200	2	6	8	23½	24½	26
Lonrho	140	13½	16½	20	4	7	9
(*147½)	160	4½	7½	11	15	18	19½
Sears	100	8	9½	10½	2½	4	5
(*106)	110	2½	4½	6	8	9½	10½
Thrn Emi	1050	50½	64½	77	19½	40	49½
(*1067)	1100	25½	39	52	46½	68	72½
Tomkins	220	21½	25	29	4	8½	10½
(*235)	240	9½	14	18½	12	18	20½
TSB	220	25	30½	34	4	8	9½
(*238)	240	13	18½	23	12	18½	18
Wellcome	1000	57	62	—	1	8	—
(*1051½)	1050	21½	25	—	14½	25½	—
Series		**Apr**	**Jul**	**Oct**	**Apr**	**Jul**	**Oct**
Glaxo	700	20½	44½	61	11½	26½	42
(*707)	750	3½	21½	37½	44½	54½	70
HSBC	700	30½	59½	75½	12	30½	43½
(*715½)	750	9	36	51½	40	56½	69
Reuter	460	19½	35	47	5	14	20
(*473)	500	3	16	27	28	35½	40½
Series		**May**	**Jul**	**Oct**	**May**	**Jul**	**Oct**
Royal Ins	280	16½	20½	28	7	12	16½
(*287½)	300	7	14	18	17½	23	26½
Series		**Jun**	**Sep**	**Dec**	**Jun**	**Sep**	**Dec**
Fisons	160	17½	23	26½	6½	10½	12
(*171)	180	8	13½	17½	17	21	22½
Series		**May**	**Aug**	**Nov**	**May**	**Aug**	**Nov**
Eastern Gp	550	39½	53½	63	8	26½	32½
(*576½)	600	14	28	39	31	53	60
Series		**Jun**	**Sep**	**Dec**	**Jun**	**Sep**	**Dec**
Natl Pwr	420	20	25	32½	17½	21½	24
(*424½)	460	4½	10½	17	46½	48½	50
Scot Pwr	300	32½	38	41½	4½	11	11½
(*324½)	330	13½	20	25	15½	25	25½

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
FT-SE 100 Previous open interest: 65103	Jun 95	3182.0	3187.0	3142.0	3147.0	10881
	Sep 95	3196.0	3196.0	3189.0	3171.0	221
FT-SE 250 Previous open interest: 4156	Jun 95	3440.0	3445.0	3435.0	3440.0	101
	Sep 95					0
Three Month Sterling Previous open interest: 394799	Jun 95	92.73	92.74	92.68	92.70	13766
	Sep 95	92.34	92.35	92.29	92.30	9360
	Dec 95	92.02	92.02	91.97	91.98	4375
Three Mth Eurodollar Previous open interest: 1204	Jun 95				93.61	0
	Sep 95				93.42	0
Three Mth Euro DM Previous open interest: 727261	Jun 95	94.97	94.97	94.95	94.95	21086
	Sep 95	94.76	94.76	94.72	94.73	20833
Long Gilt Previous open interest: 93823	Mar 95	103-00	103-00	102-28	102-27	358
	Jun 95	103-10	103-11	102-29	103-00	28794
Japanese Govmt Bond	Jun 95	113.85	113.99	113.83	113.84	2127
	Sep 95				112.86	0
German Gov Bd Bund Previous open interest: 181406	Jun 95	92.14	92.22	91.99	92.06	66060
	Sep 95	91.60	91.70	91.60	91.60	48
Three month ECU Previous open interest: 18796	Jun 95	93.16	93.18	93.05	93.07	3265
	Sep 95	93.16	93.16	93.04	93.05	493
Euro Swiss Franc Previous open interest: 37995	Jun 95	96.24	96.26	96.23	96.24	2041
	Sep 95	96.13	96.14	96.11	96.13	696
Italian Govmt Bond Previous open interest: 49570	Jun 95	94.37	94.63	93.85	94.00	34032
	Sep 95				93.35	0

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6¾ Finance Hse 7
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 7 Low 5½ Week fixed: 6½
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 6¼ ; 3 mth 6⁹⁄₁₆ . Sell: 2 mth 6⅛ ; 3 mth: 6⁹⁄₁₆ .

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	6¹⁄₁₆-6⁵⁄₁₆	6⁷⁄₁₆-6⁵⁄₁₆	6⁷⁄₁₆-6⁹⁄₁₆	6¹³⁄₁₆-6¹¹⁄₁₆	
Sterling Money Rates:	6½-6¼	6⅝-6½	6¾-6½	7⅛-6¹⁵⁄₁₆	7⅝-7½
Interbank:	6½-6¼	6⅝-6½	6¾-6½	7⅛-6¹⁵⁄₁₆	7⅝-7½

Overnight: open 6⅛, close 6 .

Local Authority Deps:	6⁵⁄₁₆	n/a	6¾	7	7½
Sterling CDs:	6⁹⁄₁₆-6¼	6⁹⁄₁₆-6½	6¾-6⁹⁄₁₆	7¹⁄₁₆-6¹⁵⁄₁₆	7½-7¼
Dollar CDs:	6.04	n/a	6.13	6.29	6.60
Building Society CDs:	6½-6¼	6¹¹⁄₃₂-6¹¹⁄₃₂	6¾-6⁹⁄₁₆	7⅛-7	7⁹⁄₁₆-7⁷⁄₁₆

ECGD: Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance. Make-up day: Jan 31, 1995 Agreed rates Feb 26, 1995 to Mar 25, 1995 Scheme III: 7.87%. Reference rate Dec 31, 1994 to Jan 31, 1995 Scheme IV & V: 6.634 %.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	6-5½	6⅛-5⅞	6¼-6	6⅝-6⅜	5¾-4¾
Deutschemark:	5⅛-4¹⁵⁄₁₆	5¹⁄₁₆-4¹⁵⁄₁₆	5¹⁄₁₆-4¹⁵⁄₁₆	5⅜-5¼	5¼-4¼
French Franc:	7¾-7½	7⅞-7⅝	7⅞-7⅝	7⅞-7⅝	9-7
Swiss Franc:	3¹¹⁄₁₆-3⁹⁄₁₆	3¹¹⁄₁₆-3⁹⁄₁₆	3⅝-3½	3⅝-3½	4¼-3¼
Yen:	2⅜-2¼	2⅜-2¼	2⁷⁄₁₆-2⁵⁄₁₆	2⅜-2¼	2½-1½

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $382.10-382.50 Close: $382.10-382.60 High: $382.10-382.60
Low: $379.80-380.30 AM: $382.35 PM: $381.70

Krugerrand: $383.00-385.00 (£239.00-241.00)

Platinum: $415.60 (£259.30) **Silver:** $4.64 (£2.895) **Palladium:** $167.25 (£104.30)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for March 28	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.5114-2.5216	2.5114-2.5147	½-¼pr	1-¾pr
Brussels	46.19-46.36	46.21-46.31	5pr-par	8-3pr
Copenhagen	8.9150-8.9500	8.9270-8.9420	½-1½ds	1½-3ds
Dublin	0.9945-0.9982	0.9948-0.9974	1-5ds	6-11ds
Frankfurt	2.2415-2.2493	2.2415-2.2446	½-¼pr	1-¾pr
Lisbon	235.93-236.58	235.94-236.58	86-100ds	247-280ds
Madrid	206.17-206.96	206.66-206.96	47-58ds	159-183ds
Milan	2717.50-2732.20	2722.40-2732.20	8-10ds	28-31ds
Montreal	2.2392-2.2539	2.2508-2.2539	0.29-0.41ds	0.57-0.71ds
New York	1.6006-1.6062	1.6052-1.6062	0.03-0.01pr	0.16-0.11pr
Oslo	9.9880-10.0210	9.9940-10.0090	1½-¾pr	4½-3pr
Paris	7.9030-7.9440	7.9300-7.9440	½-1½ds	2½-3ds
Stockholm	11.6790-11.8010	11.7760-11.8010	1¾-2¾ds	5¾-6¾ds
Tokyo	142.80-143.29	143.02-143.28	¾-½pr	1½-1¼pr
Vienna	15.78-15.86	15.81-15.84	2½-1½pr	7½-5pr
Zurich	1.8507-1.8573	1.8507-1.8536	½-¼pr	1½-1¼pr

Source: Extel *Premium - pr. Discount - ds.*

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.3785-1.3795
Austria	9.85-9.86
Belgium (Com)	28.84-28.85
Canada	1.4017-1.4022
Denmark	5.5765-5.5795
France	4.9380-4.9430
Germany	1.4010-1.4020
Hong Kong	7.7322-7.7332
Ireland	1.6060-1.6069
Italy	1699.50-1700.15
Japan	89.31-89.36
Malaysia	2.5370-2.5380
Netherlands	1.5704-1.5709
Norway	6.2435-6.2465
Portugal	147.53-147.63
Singapore	1.4198-1.4208
Spain	128.77-128.87
Sweden	7.2972-7.3047
Switzerland	1.1565-1.1570

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.6018-1.6045
Australia dollar	2.2081-2.2110
Bahrain dinar	0.596-0.608
Brazil real*	1.4448-1.4490
China yuan	12.80 Buy
Cyprus pound	0.711-0.721
Finland markka	6.9525-7.0628
Greece drachma	363.50-370.50
Hong Kong dollar	12.3831-12.3925
India rupee	49.98-50.94
Indonesia rupiah	3533.00-3601.60
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4675-0.4775
Malaysia ringgit	4.0641-4.0683
New Zealand dollar	2.4749-2.4791
Pakistan rupee	48.85 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.930-6.056
Singapore dollar	2.2714-2.2772
S Africa rand (com)	5.7647-5.7708
U A E dirham	5.8075-5.9315

*Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank*

FT-SE VOLUMES

3i	1,400	Legal & Gn	1,300
ASDA Gp	8,800	Lloyds Bk	2,400
Abbey Natl	2,800	MEPC	249
Alld Dom	889	Marks Spr	4,100
Argyll Gp	2,700	NatWst Bk	4,200
Arjo Wiggn	2,300	Nat Power	3,300
AB Foods	85	Nth Wst W	720
BAA	1,200	P & O	3,000
BAT Inds	4,000	Pearson	3,400
BOC	798	PowerGen	2,100
BP	3,600	Prudential	6,700
BTR	6,300	RMC	220
BT	8,300	RTZ	1,200
Bk of Scot	901	Rank Org	2,100
Barclays	2,100	Reckitt Col	1,800
Bass	4,300	Redland	1,300
Blue Circle	1,200	Reed Intl	644
Boots	776	Rentokil	591
Bowater	1,700	Reuters	3,000
Brit Aero	2,600	Rolls Royce	1,800
Brit Airwys	5,300	Ryl Ins	1,500
Brit Gas	5,200	Ryl Bk Scot	1,100
Brit Steel	2,900	Sainsbury	1,700
Burmah Cast	439	Schroders	12
Cable Wire	4,600	Scot & New	503
Cadbury	6,000	Scot Power	496
Caradon	3,900	Sears	9,300
Carlton Cms	371	Svrn Trent	781
Cm Union	920	Shell Trans	6,400
Courtaulds	916	Siebe	1,000
De La Rue	1,100	SmKl Bch	6,900
Eastern Elec	246	Smith Nph	2,000
Enterpr Oil	1,300	Sthrn Elec	554
Forte	1,400	Std Chartd	2,100
GKN	1,100	Sun Allnce	6,800
GRE	3,300	TI Gp	291
GUS	860	TSB	2,200
Gen Acc	1,400	Tate & Lyle	1,000
Gen Elec	3,900	Tesco	2,900
Glaxo	4,200	Thames W	1,900
Granada	1,200	Thrn EMI	311
Grand Met	7,500	Tomkins	3,100
Guinness	2,300	Unilever	1,800
HSBC	4,000	Utd Bisc	2,700
Hanson	7,300	Vodafone	9,500
ICI	2,500	Warburg	878
Inchcape	5,100	Whitbread	836
Kingfisher	1,200	Wlims Hld	1,000
Ladbroke	2,800	Wolseley	2,400
Land Secs	509	Zeneca	1,600

WALL STREET

	Mar 28 midday	Mar 27 close
AMP Inc	37¼	37
AMR Corp	65½	64¼
AT & T	52½	52½
Abbott Labs	37½	37½
Advanced Micro	34¼	34¼
Aetna Life	56½	56½
Ahmanson (HF)	17½	17½
Air Prod & Chem	49½	49½
Albertson's	31½	31½
Alcan Alumnm	26½	26½
Alco Standard	71½	72½
Allied Signal	38½	38½
Alum Co of Am	40½	40½
Amax Gold Inc	5½	5½
Amerada Hess	48½	48½
Amer Brands	38½	38½
Amer El Power	31½	31½
Amer Express	35½	35½
Amer Genl Corp	33	32½
Amer Home Pr	75½	75
Amer Intl	107½	107½
Amer Stores	24½	25½
Ameritech	43½	43½
Amoco	62½	62½
Anheuser-Busch	58	58½
Apple Computer	35½	37½
Archer Daniels	19½	19½
Armco	6½	6½
Armstrng Wrld	46½	45½
Asarco	25½	25½
Ashland Oil	34½	35
Atl Richfield	114½	115
Auto Data Pro	64½	64½
Avery Dennison	39½	39½
Avon Products	58½	57½
Baker Hughes	20½	20½
Baltim Gas & El	23½	23½
Banc One	27½	27½
BankAmerica	48½	48½
Bank of NY	32½	32½
Bankers Tr NY	53½	53½
Barnett Banks	45	45½
Bausch & Lomb	35½	35½
Baxter Intl	34½	34½
Bectn Dicknsn	55½	54½
Bell Atlantic	54½	55
Bell Industries	22	22½
BellSouth	60½	60
Black & Decker	29	29
Block (H&R)	43½	44
Boeing	51½	51½
Boise Cascade	32½	32½
Bristol Myrs Sq	64½	64
Browning Ferris	33½	33½
Brunswick	19½	19½
Burlington Nthn	59	59½
CBS	64½	65½
CNA Financial	76½	76½
CPC Intl	56½	56½
CSX	78½	79
Campbell Soup	50½	50½
Can Pacific	14½	14½
Cptl Cities ABC	87½	88½
Carolina Pwr	27	27½
Caterpillar	52	52½
Central & SW	23½	23½
Champion Intl	39½	40½
Chase Manhat	35	34½
Chemical Bk	35½	38½
Chevron Corp	47½	48½
Chrysler	38½	39½
Chubb Corp	79½	79½
Cigna Corp	75½	75½
Citicorp	43½	44½
Clorox	60½	61½
Coastal Corp	28½	28½
Coca Cola	57½	57½
Colgate-Palmolive	67	67½
Columbia Gas	27½	27½
Compaq Comp	34½	34½
Comp Ass Int	62½	62½
Conagra	33½	34½
Conrail	54½	54½
Cons Edison	27½	27½
Cons Nat Gas	37½	38
Cooper Inds	38½	39½
Corning Inc	35½	36
Crown Cork	43½	44½
Dana Corp	24½	23½
Dayton Hudson	70½	70½
Deere	79½	79½
Delta Air Lines	62½	61½
Deluxe Corp	29½	28½
Detroit Edison	27½	27½
Digital Equip	36½	36½
Dillard Dept St	26	26½
Disney (Walt)	55½	55½
Dominion Res	35½	36
Donalley (RR)	34½	35½
Dover Corp	62½	62½
Dow Chemical	69½	69½
Dow Jones	37½	37½
Dresser	20½	21
Duke Power	38½	38½
Dun & Brdstreet	52½	52½
Du Pont	59	59½
Eastman Kodak	53½	53
Eaton Corp	50½	50
Emerson Elec	66½	66½
Engelhard Corp	28½	24½

	Mar 28 midday	Mar 27 close
Enron Corp	33½	33½
Entergy	20½	20½
Ethyl Corp	10½	10½
Exxon	65½	66½
FMC Corp	59½	59½
FPL Group	35½	35½
Federal Express	68½	68
Fed Nat Mtge	83	82½
First Chicago	49½	49½
First Interstate	78½	78½
First Union Rlty	7½	7½
Fleet Fin Grp	31½	31½
Fluor Corp	48½	48½
Ford Motor	26	26
GTE Corp	34½	34½
Gannett	53½	53½
Gap Inc Del	33½	32½
Gen Dynamics	46½	47
Gen Electric	55	54½
Gen Mills	62½	63
Gen Motors	43½	43½
Gen Reinsurance	133½	133½
Gen Signal	35½	35½
Genuine Parts	39½	39½
Georgia Pac	77½	76½
Gillette	83½	82½
Glaxo ADR	22½	22½
Goodrich (BF)	45	45½
Goodyear Tire	35½	35½
Grace (W&R)	53½	53½
Grt Atl Pac Tea	22½	22½
Great Wstn Fin	18½	18½
Halliburton	36½	37
Harcourt General	39½	39½
Heinz (HJ)	39½	39½
Hercules	47½	47½
Hershey Foods	51½	52
Hewlett Packard	123½	122½
Hilton Hotels	75½	76½
Home Depot	43½	43½
Homestake Mng	17½	17½
Honeywell	37½	38
Household Intl	44½	44½
Houston Inds	38½	38½
Humana	24½	24½
ITT Corp	102½	102½
Illinois Tool	46½	46½
Illinova	22½	22½
INCO	27½	27½
Ingersoll Rand	32½	32½
Inland Steel	25½	25½
Intel Corp	88½	87½
IBM	84½	85½
Intl Flav & Fr	52½	52½
Intl Paper	73½	73½
James River Va	23½	23½
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	61½	61½
Kellogg	59	59½
Kerr-McGee	49½	49½
Kimberly-Clark	52½	52½
Kmart	13	13
Knight-Ridder	56½	56½
Lilly (Eli)	75½	76½
Limited Inc	21½	19½
LIN Brdcstng	121½	122
Lincoln Nat	40½	40½
Litton	35½	35½
Liz Claiborne	17½	17
Lockheed Martin	52½	53
Louisiana Pac	26½	25½
MCI Comm	20½	20½
Marriott Int	34½	34½
Marsh & McLnn	83½	83½
Masco Corp	26½	26½
May Dept St	36½	36
Maytag Corp	16½	16½
McDonalds	34½	34½
McDonnell D	56	56½
McGraw Hill	72½	72½
Mead Corp	53½	53½
Medtronic	70	70½
Mellon Bk	39½	40
Melville Corp	34½	34½
Merck Inc	42½	43½
Merrill Lynch	44½	44½
Minnesota Mine	57½	58½
Mobil Corp	90½	91½
Monsanto	79½	79
Morgan (JP)	61½	62
Motorola Inc	57	56½
Natl Semi	18½	18½
Natl Service Ind	26½	26½
Navistar Int	12½	12½
NBD Bancorp	32	31½
NY Times A	22½	22½
Newmont Mng	40½	40½
Niag Mohawk	13½	13½
Nike B	75	75½
NL Industries	13	13½
Noram Energy	5½	5½
Nordstrom	40½	40
Norfolk Sthrn	66½	67½
Nthn State Pwr	43½	43½
Norwest Corp	25	25
Nynex Corp	40½	40½
Occidental Pet	21½	21½
Ohio Edison	19½	20½
Oracle Systems	32½	32½
Oryx Energy Co	11½	11½
Owens Corning	36	35½

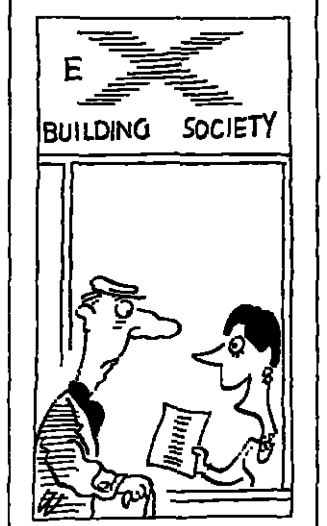
	Mar 28 midday	Mar 27 close
PPG Industries	38½	38½
PNC Bank	24½	24½
Paccar Inc	40½	41½
Pacificorp	19½	19½
Pac Enterprises	24½	24½
Pac Gas & Elect	24½	25½
Pac Telesis	30½	30½
Pall Corp	21½	21
Panhandle East	22½	22½
Parker Hannifin	43½	43½
Peco Energy	24½	25
Penney (JC)	45	44½
Pennzoil	47½	47½
Pepsico	40½	40½
Pfizer	89	89½
Phelps Dodge	59½	58
Philip Morris	67½	67½
Phillips Pet	35	35½
Pitney Bowes	38½	38½
Polaroid	34½	34½
PriceCostco	14½	14½
Procter & Gmbl	68½	69
Providian	35½	35½
Pub Serv E & G	27½	27½
Quaker Oats	33½	34½
Ralston Purina	47½	47½
Raychem Corp	40½	41
Raytheon	73½	73½
Reebok Intl	35	34½
Reynolds Metals	48½	48½
Roadway Srvcs	49	49½
Rockwell Intl	39½	39½
Rohm & Haas	57½	56½
Royal Dutch	117½	118½
Rubbermaid	33	33½
Safeco Corp	55½	55½
St Paul's Cos	50½	50
Salomon Inc	33½	33½
Santa Fe Pac	22½	11½
Sara Lee Corp	27½	27½
Scecorp	15½	15½
Schering Plough	78	78½
Schlumberger	58½	58½
Scott Paper	84½	84½
Seagram	31½	32
Sears Roebuck	52½	53
Shell Trans	69½	69½
Sherwin Wlms	33½	33½
Skyline Corp	17½	17½
Snap-On-Tools	36½	35½
Southern Co	20½	20½
Sthwestern Bell	42½	43½
Sprint Corp	31½	31½
Stanley Works	39½	40½
Sun Company	28½	29
Sun Microsys	35½	35½
Suntrust	54½	54½
Supervalu	26½	26½
Sysco Corp	26½	26½
TRW Inc	68½	69½
TOC Inds	2½	2½
Tandem Comp	16½	16½
Tandy Corp	47½	48½
Teledyne	22½	22½
Temple Inland	45	45½
Tenet Healthcare	16½	16½
Tenneco	46½	46½
Texaco	65½	66½
Texas Instr	97	98½
Texas Utilities	31½	33½
Textron	54½	55½
Time Warner	37½	38½
Times-Mirror A	20½	19½
Timken	35½	35½
Torchmark	41½	41½
Toys R Us	25	25
Transamerica	57½	57½
Travelers	38½	39½
Tribune	54½	54½
Tyco Labs	52½	53½
UST Inc	31½	31½
UAL	102½	103½
USX Marathon	16½	16½
Unicom	24	24½
Unilever NV	129½	129
Union Camp	49½	49½
Union Carbide	31½	31½
Union Pacific	54½	54½
Unisys Corp	9½	9½
USAIR Group	6½	6½
USF&G Corp	14½	14½
US Life	37½	37½
US West	40½	41½
United Tech	67½	67½
Unocal Corp	28½	28½
Upjohn	36½	37½
VF Corp	51½	51
WMX Tech	27½	26½
Wal-Mart Stores	24½	24½
Warner-Lambert	80	80
Wells Fargo	157½	155½
Westinghouse El	14½	14½
Weyerhaeuser	37½	37½
Whirlpool	53½	53½
Whitman	19	19½
Winn Dixie	56½	56½
Woolworth	17½	17½
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	45½	45½
Xerox	119½	119
Yellow Corp	16½	16½

هكذا من الاحل

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Knocking the NEDs

THOSE in, or looking for, "little jobs" — City shorthand (*courtesy of Ed Wallis of PowerGen*) for posts as non-executive directors (NEDs) — could well find their corporate toes rudely trodden on by today's issue of *The Price Waterhouse Corporate Register* from Hemmington Scott Publishing. Dr Martin Conyon, a senior research fellow at the Centre for Corporate Strategy and Change at Warwick University, in qualifying comments, finds that NEDs are apparently doing little to stem high pay awards in boardrooms, and deduces from one set of data that the more NEDs there are on a board, the more pay there is for top directors. He says: "Such an observation does not easily square with the notion that NEDs are the guardians of shareholder interests in the boardroom." Adopting Cadbury-style best practice structures does not automatically result in superior corporate performance, he adds. The *Register* notes that the number of directors collecting over £1 million a year has risen from 12 last March to a current 16, that the average salary for the top 150 highest paid directors in the UK is £738,940, a 9.1 per cent increase on figures in the September survey, and that in spite of increased political attention "there is little sign of meaningful pay restraint by top UK directors". In one passage, he calls into question the effectiveness of NEDs. *Ouch!*



"Shares in two years' time — meanwhile, here are your bank charges."

Top honours

IT was a day of recognition and promotion yesterday. Heidi Hutter, 37, an actuary by training, an expert on pollution and asbestos risks, and director of the Equitas project at Lloyd's of London, was named "Insurance Woman of the Year" by APIW, the US professional association for women. And Jeffrey Herbert, currently chief executive of Charter, was given early warning to order a chairman's hat, though told he may only don it after the 1996 annal meeting when Sir Michael Edwardes retires as Charter's chairman.

Who's for tennis?

LONDON based companies in the 0171 and 0181 telephone areas have until Friday to grab their rackets and register their entry for the 1995 Nomura Inter-Company Tennis Challenge, which annually attracts more than 250 companies. The event, open to all standards and sanctioned by the Lawn Tennis Association, is held between May and October. Previous winners were the young ladies from the Old Lady of Threadneedle Street in 1990 and 1991, and for the past three years, the women from Barclays Bank. In the 1994 men's finals, it was the chaps from Lehman Brothers who carried off the cup.

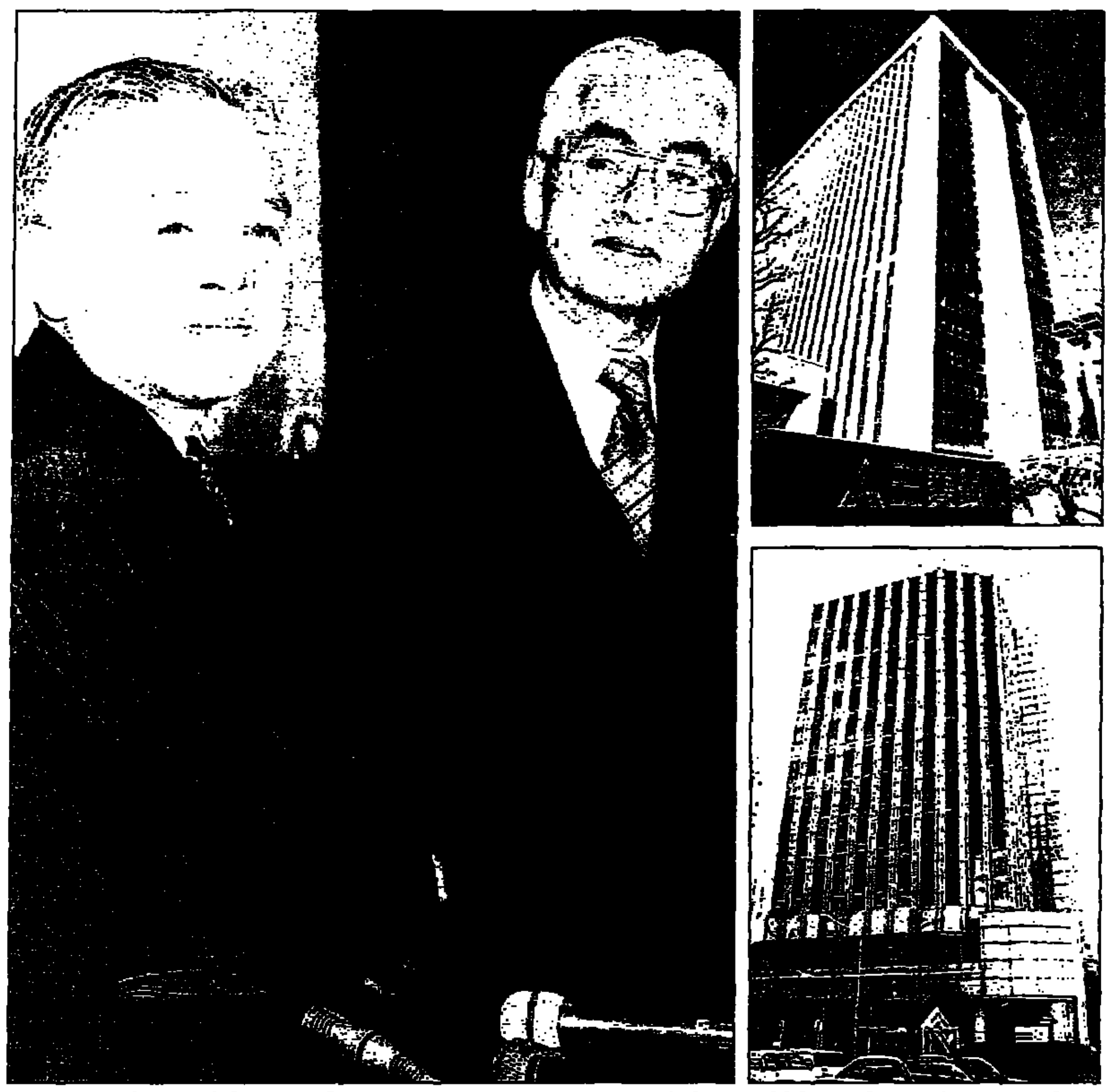
SIGN seen in Chichester: Bank job wanted. Alas, no mistress to support.

COLIN CAMPBELL

Creating a bank bigger than UK Big Four combined

Japan's new giant bank can't throw its weight around abroad, says

Patricia Tehan



Tasuku Takagaki, left, Bank of Tokyo president, and Tsuneo Wakai, Mitsubishi Bank president, yesterday announcing a basic agreement to form the world's largest bank by merging Mitsubishi, top, and Bank of Tokyo

Stock market rumours very rarely turn into reality, so it was with some amazement yesterday that the Japanese financial community watched as Mitsubishi Bank and Bank of Tokyo announced their plans to merge and become the biggest bank in the world.

Over the past five years, the two have been the subject of merger rumours on a regular basis. In retrospect, it is easy to say that someone should have been suspicious about the absence of such talk in the past few months.

Mitsubishi Bank was already bigger than any other non-Japanese bank, and sixth biggest in Japan and in the world in terms of gross assets, with Bank of Tokyo eighth largest in Japan and 19th largest in world terms.

The hindrance to Mitsubishi's dream of becoming a global bank is its concentration on domestic banking.

The two banks were forced to confirm their plans to merge yesterday after a series of confused messages, including initial denials from them, confirmation from the Bank of Japan and confusion from the Japanese Finance Minister. At a hastily convened press conference in Tokyo, Tsuneo Wakai, Mitsubishi's president, said that details of the planned merger had not yet been decided. Neither Mr Wakai nor Tasuku Takagaki, Bank of Tokyo president, gave a specific date or financial terms for the merger, though Mr Wakai did say that they would like to merge by April 1996 at the latest.

Mr Wakai said that the banks had decided to merge because each could provide the other with strengths they needed to grow, and Mr Takagaki said that changes financial markets had made Bank of Japan think about a merger. He said: "Looking at changes in the world and Japan, and looking at the 21st century, we wanted to create a new structure."

The reaction of the international banking community was that the planned merger is a domestic Japanese issue. Although it would create the world's largest bank in terms of gross assets, it raises "the question of what is more important — size or profitability", said David Marshall, a director of IBCA, the credit rating agency.

The new "Tokyo Mitsubishi Bank", as it has been dubbed by Tokyo's financial community, would dwarf competitors. Its asset base will be bigger than that of the big four UK clearing banks combined. If merged, the two would have assets of Y73 trillion (£508 billion), based on figures for the half year to September 30. That would make it 35 per cent bigger than its nearest rival, Sakura Bank with Y54 billion assets.

Mr Marshall said that the closest non-Japanese bank in world rankings, based on financial results for the year to March 1994, would be Crédit Lyonnais, the French banking group, which was ninth-biggest in the world, with assets of $330 billion, followed by Deutsche Bank in 11th place with assets of $317 billion. HSBC, which includes Midland Bank and HongkongBank, would be the closest British banking group, with assets of $305 billion. Barclays would be 22nd with total assets of $241 billion.

Despite its size, Tokyo Mitsubishi Bank is unlikely to be turning its sights on improving its competitive position overseas.

The news sent shivers down the spines of competitors, including Sakura Bank, Dai-Ichi Kangyo Bank, Sumitomo Bank, Fuji Bank and Sanwa Bank. However, there are unlikely to be any monopoly issues, since Mitsubishi has only a 6 per cent share of the domestic market and the combined entity will have 9 per cent. There are another five banks of similar size to Mitsubishi.

Mark Faulkner, an analyst for SG Warburg in Tokyo, said that a merger would take the two way ahead of their Japanese competitors "in terms of size and breadth of product range".

Mr Faulkner said: "We are not talking about businesses that would benefit from being severely restructured or consolidated. They fit together as very good separate entities. They complement each other. It is not a defensive, consolidation merger."

The most obvious overlap is in the US where both have affiliate banks in California. They said yesterday that they had not decided what to do with Mitsubishi's affiliate Bank of California and Bank of Tokyo's affiliate Union Bank.

Otherwise, the make-up of their businesses is quite different. Given the lack of significant crossover in their businesses, the integration of the two may look straightforward. However, they both have strong corporate cultures and personality and culture clashes are expected.

Bank of Tokyo was formally established in 1946, after taking over Yokohama Specie Bank. It is the specialist foreign exchange and trade finance bank in Japan, with the most extensive offshore network among Japan's banks. More than 70 per cent of its gross profits come from its international business and, as a result, it has only a minor domestic bad-debt exposure.

Mitsubishi, established in 1880, is the main bank to the Mitsubishi group of companies, which account for an estimated 10 per cent of Japan's gross domestic product. Its banking business is loan and asset-driven, providing investment capital finance for Japanese companies, with 80 per cent of gross profits coming from Japanese operations. It funds 80 per cent of its business through deposits, and 24 per cent of its loans are to consumers. This compares with 50 per cent of Bank of Tokyo's funds coming from deposits and 1 per cent of loans to individuals.

In spite of the size of the planned new banking giant, it is unlikely to pose a huge threat to international banking groups. It will be comfortably, but not overly well capitalised, with the merged group having a total capital ratio of about 9 per cent, against well over 10 per cent for US banks.

The Japanese banks have learnt their lesson from the 1980s, when, buoyed by large savings surpluses, they threw excess capital at borrowers at home and abroad, joining any banking consortium, and forcing lending margins down.

This merger will give a clear advantage at home. On a global scale, Tokyo Mitsubishi Bank will certainly be enormous in terms of assets, but its ability to lend will be constrained by its depleted capital. It would have to generate much new capital, in difficult, some would say stagnant, market conditions, to attain the capital adequacy of overseas rivals.

ANTHONY HARRIS

Warning signs of a world slowdown

The world economy has just enjoyed a boom that hardly anyone forecast; but most forecasters have taken it as a sign of things to come. Projections for 1995-97 are generally bullish. But if the models were wrong once, are they wrong again? That is the warning given this week by two very different forecasting organisations — Robert Fleming, an investment bank with worldwide links, and Lombard Street Research, Professor Tim Congdon's City think-tank. Both expect the slowdown to come much sooner than 1997-98; and they are to be taken seriously, because both start from what is still a rare piece of hindsight: an explanation of the boom.

On conventional reasoning, the boom can never have happened. Recoveries require a stimulus: either a fiscal policy relaxation, or a monetary boost. But almost every government in the world is trying to reduce budget deficits; the only exception has been Japan, the one country that has not enjoyed a recovery. Monetary policy was sharply relaxed in intention, at least, with interest rate cuts in the early 1990s; though it has been tightened in the last year. But on the normal measure of results, the growth of the money supply, nothing happened. So where was the stimulus?

Both Flemings and Lombard Street find explanations in the capital markets, though they are somewhat different. Lombard Street is in a bit of a bind: Congdon is a broad money man, so his leading indicators, which stress the growth of real broad money, never did forecast the recovery. But his associate Brian Reading, a keen student of world trade, points out that the big stimulus came from exports to emerging economies.

Low returns on domestic savings led US intitutions, in particlar, to look abroad for assets. Thanks to this new global capital mobility, the emerging economies got the first benefit of easy money. A huge volume of direct and portfolio investment enabled them to build up their investments or, fatally in the case of Mexico, to finance consumer imports. For the first time, therefore, they boomed while the developed world slumped, and they led the recovery. But the Mexican fiasco, and the consequent retreat of capital values in emerging economies, has ended this chapter. They will now lead the way down.

The Fleming analysis starts from credit, not money. A normal cyclical recovery, it argues, is led by rising bank credit, the monetary tide that floats all boats. Property and asset values, consumer spending, incomes and prices are all driven up; the music stops when inflation begins to get out of hand. But this time bank lending has stagnated (except in the US), property values and prices have remained subdued, and consumers (except in the US) have remained depressed. The result almost everywhere, including the US, is joyless prosperity. Except in corporate boardrooms.

Fleming lists capital issues, especially in the global bond market, and shows that the big beneficiaries of low interest rates have been companies, whose balance sheets have been transformed. Thanks to a huge transfer from household liquidity to corporate accounts, they have been able to finance an investment boom not only in the emerging economies, but in the developed world.

But much of this has been aimed at cost-cutting: consumers, already over-borrowed, have seen sluggish income growth and discouraging job prospects. Result: corporations have in effect taken a high dive into a shallow pool. Forget short capacity: output will be constrained by shortage of consumer demand. Investment will subside, and activity with it. The only good news in this scenario is that the feared rise in inflation will never happen.

These financial stories are not necessarily true, but they are plausible — certainly more plausible than the conventional hymn to the joys of free trade. And remember that world tidal shifts are not only generally a surprise in timing: they are stronger than anyone expects.

Sarah Bagnall on the difficulty of breaking into film

Two film-makers and a problem

PETER TRIEVNOR

Great expectations: Francesca Brill, left, and Sandra Yarwood, the film-makers

The British film industry has had more comebacks than Frank Sinatra. But as the main Oscars elude the Brits there is little evidence that the latest flurry of activity will prove any more successful than the myriad of revivals of the past.

After the undeniable box office success of *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, securing film finance may be easier for a select handful but for the mass of up and coming film-makers the situation is as unpromising as before.

In France producers of all feature-length films have to budget in the cost of a short film. These 15-minute escapades not only give the opportunity for the hopefuls to cut their teeth but also to learn from the industry's best and established film-makers.

Unfortunately this philanthropic attitude does not cross the Channel. The reasons are many — but the key ones are lack of funding and an absence of financial incentive for cinemas to run short films. As Francesca Brill, writer and director, and Sandra Yarwood, producer, discovered making a short film is no easy task. Brill says *Expecting*, their film, is a 15-minute miracle.

"It took two years from start to finish," says Brill, "and then it was a near thing."

There are limited sources of official funding for "shorts," as they are known in the industry. Each year bodies such as Channel 4, The British Film Institute, BBC and The London Production Fund finance a total of about 40 short films. This is a far cry from the tens of thousands of commercials made in a year, and at an average cost of £85,000, the shorts are significantly cheaper.

One of the two years was spent trying to access this limited pot of official funding. "We submitted the script to the funding bodies in January 1994 and it was shortlisted for both the BFI's New Directors Scheme and Channel 4's *Short and Curlies*," says Yarwood. Finally in December 1993 they heard they had failed in their bid for funding — it had taken a year to decide on 15 minutes of footage.

Channel 4 cited Brill's lack of directing experience as the main reason for rejecting the script. As Yarwood says: "It's a *Catch-22* situation. Unless you can afford to go to film school there are few chances for the less experienced to get a chance."

After the rejection, the two set about wooing funds from elsewhere but found it was tougher than expected. "It is a terrible indictment on the British film industry that a script with pedigree fails to get financial support from within the industry," says Brill. "We got very depressed."

In desperation, they decided to cut the original budget from £80,000 to £14,000. "That meant we weren't paying anyone anything. We were just budgeting for the technical costs," says Brill.

A business plan was drawn up and sent to anyone the couple felt might be useful. Instead of trying to sell the film as a money-spinning venture, they spelt out that investors would not see their money again. "We had to be totally honest. We told them we wanted to make this short film in order to break into the industry. Basically we pulled in all the favours we could," says Brill, a Rada actress turned writer/director.

Raising the money took a long time but finally they succeeded in securing the necessary funds to cover their expenses. Funding came from a mixture of friends and relatives but the biggest slice came from Stark Films through a personal contact.

Finding the money was not the only challenge. The reduced budget meant they had to haggle for everything. "Nothing was at full price. Everything was on a deal. The price of every sandwich we bought was negotiated," says Yarwood.

The end result lasts less than 15 minutes and has an uncertain future. A television company could snap it up but the going rate is £100 a minute excluding credits. At 12½ minutes, *Expecting* would cost £1,250.

Getting a cinema showing is another possibility but a slim one. The large cinema chains are reluctant to show shorts because it reduces the number of times they can show the more lucrative feature films. With no financial gain there is no incentive to screen them.

Corporate sponsorship is a possibility. Last year TSB took the innovative step of sponsoring trailers in cinemas and corporate sponsorship is increasingly paying for what appears on our television screens. Until funding becomes more generally available, those starting out have a bleak future.

BUSINESS LETTER

Taking advice to avoid collapse

From the Chairman, Auditing Committee, ICAEW

Sir, The letter from Gill Hankey, National Officer of the Bankruptcy Association of Great Britain and Ireland, refers to guidance to our members on identifying high-risk clients (Business Letters, March 21). It then, without any obvious connection, proceeds to state that our members give poor advice to bankrupts. I can only assume that the guidance on risk management serves as a convenient peg to pass the blame for bankruptcy on to others.

Many studies have been made on the causes of bankruptcy and there is no underlying factor that is pre-eminent. There is one area, however, on which most studies agreed — lack of professional advice in the early stages of a business, as well as throughout its life, is a contributory factor in the failure of a business.

Gill Hankey would serve bankrupts better if the warning issued to those going into business is, "lack of a chartered accountant can damage your wealth". Of course, in that case, members of the Bankruptcy Association may decrease.

Yours faithfully,

MARTIN SCICLUNA,
Chairman,
Auditing Committee, Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales (ICAEW),
Moorgate Place, EC2.

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Grofund Eqty Bal	108.30	112.30		2.99
Grofund Gilt	73.34	75.61	- 0.11	5.37
Grofund Japan	151.80	160.60	+ 4.30	.
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS				
01203 553 231				
General Acc	529.40	563.20†	- 2.00	2.89
General Inc	461.50	491.00†	- 1.70	2.99
UK Growth Acc	356.50	379.30	- 2.00	3.04
UK Growth Inc	243.90	259.50	- 1.50	3.04
Higher Inc Acc	658.30	700.40	- 1.70	4.21
Higher Inc Inc	380.60	404.90	- 0.90	4.21
Gilt/Fxd Int Acc	186.30	196.30†	- 0.20	5.99
Gilt/Fxd Int Inc	88.32	93.29†	- 0.09	5.99
Nth America	267.80	284.90	+ 1.40	...
Far East	330.70	351.90	+ 7.90	0.33
Europe	263.80	280.70†	- 0.90	0.99
Brit Excell	70.81	75.33	- 0.40	3.21
Brit Fxdints Acc	99.45	105.80†	- 0.40	5.05
Brit Fxdints Inc	71.28	75.83†	- 0.26	5.05
Global Opps	82.24	87.49	+ 0.60	0.72
Balanced Acc	53.15	56.55	- 0.06	3.21
Balanced Inc	51.85	55.16	- 0.07	3.21
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS				
0345 717 373				
High Income				
Gilt & Fixed Int	126.60	134.30†		7.45
High Inc Equity	156.10	167.00	- 0.50	4.71
Worldwide Bond	269.20	285.60†	- 0.20	4.55
Capital Growth				
American Growth	280.90	300.80		.80
Asian Pacific	295.70	314.60	+ 1.70	..
Assets & Earnings	250.20	265.20	- 1.00	3.09
Commdy & Energy	93.71	99.05†	- 0.92	.13
Euro Capital Inc	127.90	136.80	+ 0.30	.71
(Accum Units)	136.60	146.80	+ 0.30	.71
General	224.20	238.50†	- 0.90	2.28
Japan	112.30	130.10	+ 5.40	.
Mastertrust	133.90	143.20	+ 1.00	1.98
UK Growth Dist	110.40	118.10	- 0.10	3.26
US Emerging Cos	131.90	140.30	+ 1.10	
Income & Growth	373.00	396.80	- 1.40	3.15
Ethical	64.61	68.73	- 0.15	3.19
International	107.30	114.20	+ 1.50	.92
Dividend & Growth	58.22	61.94	- 0.23	4.54
Global Gwth & Inc	66.85	71.31	+ 0.05	2.92
ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
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UK Small Cos	£16.02	£16.69	.	

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
CENT BD OF FIN OF CHURCH OF ENG				
0171 588 1815				
Inv Fund	636.50	638.60	...	4.87
Fxd Int Sec	145.85	146.00		9.93
CENTURY UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
0171 332 5000				
UK General Tst	61.08	64.97	- 0.35	3.06
COIF-CHARITIES OFFICIAL INV FD				
0171 588 1815				
Inc	625.05	625.22	...	4.97
Accum	£26.90	£26.98		
Fixed Int Inc	119.08	119.16	..	9.73
Fixed Int Acc	187.15	187.60	...	.
CHARTERED ASSET MGMT LTD				
0171 837 7667				
Intl Growth	105.06	114.94	...	
UK Income	101.47	110.54	.	5.414
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Beckman Intl	76.83	81.30	...	1.49
Beck Bio-Tech	28.53	30.12	..	...
Acorn Ethical Tst	137.89	145.15	..	0.74
City Fin Assets	67.63	71.01	.	1.28
City Fin America	85.30	89.79†	.	
City Fin Intl	71.16	74.91	...	0.97
City Fin Japan	148.23	156.03	.	
Friars Hse Cap	262.85	284.78	.	1.73
Friars Hse Inc	186.98	202.93	..	4.15
Buckley Wrld Gth	115.70	123.08†	..	
Fairmnt Cap Gth	127.62	135.77	.	.
Fairmount Intl	138.50	147.34	..	
City Fin Pflio Inc	52.71	56.07	..	4.39
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	50.29	53.36	+ 0.14	
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD				
0800 373 393				
American Gwth	58.15	62.19	+ 0.29	
Alloc Mngd Gwth	34.69	37.10	+ 0.41	0.49
Dragon Growth	61.45	65.72	+ 0.22	0.66
Equity High Inc	78.75	83.76†	- 0.43	4.31
(Accum Units)	106.71	113.52	- 0.59	4.31
European Gwth	47.67	50.71	- 0.20	1.20
Evergreen	25.59	27.37	+ 0.09	.
General Equity	80.29	85.19	- 0.64	3.00
Japan Growth	47.85	51.18	+ 2.44	...
Pedigree Gwth	48.62	51.72	- 0.24	2.97
Ped Sm Cos Inc	28.42	30.23	+ 0.04	1.58
(Accum Units)	29.53	31.41	+ 0.04	1.58
Retirement Inc #	24.60	26.17	- 0.11	8.78
Special Sits	35.88	38.17	- 0.13	2.23
UK & Overseas	45.51	48.41	+ 0.20	1.43

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
French Growth	75.49	78.36†	- 0.19	0.27
Accum Units	80.98	84.05†	- 0.21	0.27
H Kong & China	73.00	75.77	+ 0.32	1.96
Intl Growth	54.71	56.78	+ 0.41	0.67
(Accum Units)	55.16	57.25	+ 0.41	0.67
Japan Gth	30.91	32.08	+ 1.51	
Accum Units	30.97	32.09	+ 1.51	
Japan Smaller Cos	35.61	36.98	- 0.94	.
Glob Emg Mkts	86.11	89.38	+ 1.42	
Accum Units	86.72	90.01	+ 1.43	
SE Asia	298.30	309.80†	+ 1.60	0.35
Overseas Income Funds				
Intl Bond	53.65	55.27†	+ 0.13	6.84

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
(Accum Units)	128.80	136.20	- 0.20	3.35
Sterling FI Int	23.74	23.83†	- 0.08	8.73
Treasury	25.03	25.07†	+ 0.01	6.23
Trustee	39.70	42.00	- 0.10	4.60
(Accum Units)	159.90	169.40	- 0.40	4.60
MGM UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
Dealing: 01277 391 010 Enq: 01903 204 631				
European Growth	76.76	81.65	- 0.50	1.54
Intl Bond	63.21	66.43		5.85
Intl Equity Growth	68.13	72.46	+ 0.48	0.84
N Amer Growth	94.94	101.00†	+ 0.14	1.05
Special Sits Growth	20.53	21.83†	+ 0.02	2.11

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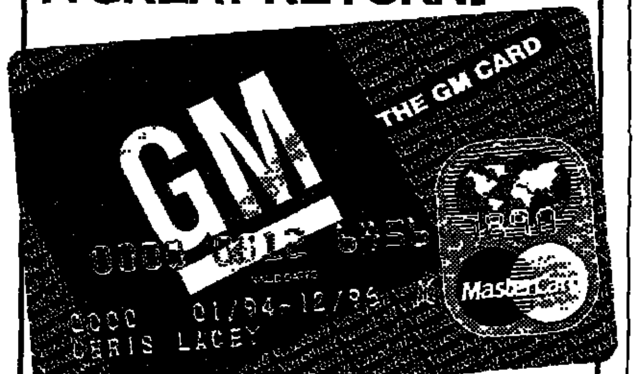

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International	70.96	75.48	+ 0.63	0.08
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Japanese Portfolio	60.85	64.66†	+ 2.65	..
Pacific Portfolio	126.84	136.30	- 0.01	0.96
UK Inc & Growth	72.91	78.11	- 0.28	3.38
Utility & Bond	52.31	52.94	- 0.20	7.20

هكذا من الأصل

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High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
615	311½	Brit Biotech	496			
428	163	Cantab Pharma	163			
274	191	Celltech	274	+ 2		
151	86	Chiroscience	121			
47	31	Cortecs	37			
172½	103	Fisons	172½	+ 7½	3.2	
735	530	Glaxo†	707	- 6	5.0	17.1
185	95½	Grampian Hdg	117	+ 1½	5.9	21.6
230	170	Medeva†	214	- 4	1.9	14.7
3	¾	Premier Health	1			
330	227	Quality Care	250		2.4	17.4
362	242	Scotia	362			
53	39	Shield Diag	39	- 2		
632	357½	SmithKline†	501½	- 12½	3.2	
513	322	SmithKline Unit	426½	- 5½	3.3	
1063	492	Wellcome†	1052	- 1	2.7	22.6
934	672	Zeneca†	930	- 10	4.0	19.9

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High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
603	491	Allied Domecq	526	- 5	5.4	14.2
459	358	Bulmer (HP)	405		3.4	21.2
140	105	Burn Stewart	107	- 1	5.9	23.1
505	352	Grand Met†	391		4.5	17.6
542	404	Guinness†	446	- 9½	4.0	13.7
457	353	Highland Dist	395		2.4	17.6
222	137	Macallan-Glen	154		0.9	49.2
710	365	Macdn Mtn A	630	- 5	2.0	22.1
614	515	Matthew Clark†	549		4.3	25.2
250	61	Merrydown W	83		3.5	
190	129	Tomatin Cows	136	+ 1	6.2	10.5

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High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
645	457	Severn Trent†	507	+ 3	5.8	8.4
2103	1525	South Staffs	2103	+ 8	3.2	12.7
675	459	South West†	489	- 1	6.7	7.2
682	465	Southern†	556		5.4	8.0
611	434½	Thames†	485	- 2	6.0	7.3
744	546	Welsh	600	+ 3	5.5	6.6
379¾	252	Wessex†	277		5.5	7.2
630	458	Yorkshire	513	+ 2	5.7	7.5

Source: Extel

⊙ USM, # Price at suspension, † Ex dividend, ‡ Ex scrip
▲ Ex rights issue, ▼ Ex all, § Ex capital distribution,
* Figures on report awaited. . No significant data.
Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 index.

BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (under 5 years)

High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
103¼	97¼	Gas 3% 1990-95	99⅝ ‡		3.01	5.45
107	101	Exch 10¼% 1995	101		10.12	6.39
113¼	103¼	Treas 12¾% 1995	103¾		12.29	6.52
117	105	Treas 14% 1996	105		13.25	6.79
121	108	Treas 15¼% 1996	108⅝ ‡		14.04	7.01
117	106	Exch 13¼% 1996	106		12.44	7.16
112	103	Conv 10% 1996	103		9.64	7.56
100¾	96	Treas 7% 1997	98		7.12	7.84
121	108	Treas 13¼% 1997	109	-	12.13	7.71
114	104	Exch 10½% 1997	104	-	10.02	7.75
110	100	Treas 8¾% 1997	101	-	8.60	7.97
131	114	Exch 15% 1997	115 ‡	-	12.94	8.08
114	102	Exch 9¾% 1998	103	-	9.39	8.20
106	95	Treas 7¼% 1998	97 ‡	-	7.43	8.20
102	93	Treas 6¾% 1995-98	96 ‡		7.02	8.20
131	114	Treas 14% 1998-01	115	-	12.13	8.34
140	120	Treas 15½% 1998	121 ‡	-	12.74	8.25
125	109	Exch 12% 1998	111	-	10.79	8.38
116	100	Treas 9½% 1999	103	-	9.16	8.36
128	111	Exch 12¼% 1999	112	-	10.86	8.41
121	105	Treas 10½% 1999	107	-	9.79	8.41
101	88	Treas 6% 1999	91	-	6.55	8.35
121	104	Conv 10¼% 1999	106	-	9.60	8.48

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
116	99	Conv 9% 2000	102	-	8.80	8.41
98	96	Treas 8% 2000	98	-	8.13	8.56
136	116	Treas 13% 2000	118	-	10.94	8.52
127	103	Treas 10% 2001	106	-	9.38	8.54
109	89	Treas 7% 2001	92	-	7.58	8.48
123	102	Treas 9¾% 2002	106	-	9.18	8.60
113	92	Treas 8% 2003	96	-	8.26	8.55
127	104	Treas 10% 2003	108	-	9.24	8.61
129	109	Treas 11½% 2001-04	112	-	10.19	8.69
86	69	Fund 3½% 1999-04	75	-	4.66	7.23
125	101	Conv 9½% 2004	105 ‡	-	8.97	8.59
105	84	Treas 6¾% 2004	88	-	7.61	8.50
109	97	Treas 8½% 2005	100	-	8.48	8.47
125	102	Conv 9½% 2005	106 ‡	-	8.94	8.56
143	118	Treas 12½% 2003-05	122	-	10.22	8.78
112	90	Treas 7¾% 2006	94	-	8.19	8.50
111	91	Treas 8% 2002-06	96 ‡	-	8.31	8.56
138	112	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	116	-	10.09	8.79
119	95	Treas 8½% 2007	100	-	8.49	8.49
151	124	Treas 13½% 2004-08	128	-	10.48	8.79
124	99	Treas 9% 2008	104 ‡	-	8.64	8.48
115	91	Treas 8% 2009	97	-	8.31	8.47

LONGS (over 15 years)

High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
98	77	Treas 6¼% 2010	81	-	7.67	8.40
126	100	Conv 9% 2011	104	-	8.59	8.46
127	100	Treas 9% 2012	104	-	8.57	8.45
93	71	Treas 5½% 2008-12	75	-	7.32	8.23
117	92	Treas 8% 2013	96	-	8.32	8.41
114	89	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	93	-	8.29	8.44
128	98	Treas 8¾% 2017	103	-	8.44	8.38
159	126	Exch 12% 2013-17	131	-	9.15	8.61

UNDATED

High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
54	38	War Ln 3½%	41	-	8.35	.
37	27	Treas 2½%	29 ‡	+	8.42	.

INDEX-LINKED

High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
206	197	Treas IL 2% 1996	206	+	1.65	3.44
113	106	Treas IL 4⅝% 1998	108 ‡	-	2.75	3.70
178	163	Treas IL 2½% 2001	168	-	3.40	3.86
173	159	Treas IL 2½% 2003	164	-	3.50	3.87
118	107	Treas IL 4⅜% 2004	109 ‡	-	3.53	3.97
184	165	Treas IL 2% 2006	171	-	3.58	3.85
168	149	Treas IL 2½% 2009	154	-	3.63	3.86
175	154	Treas IL 2½% 2011	159	-	3.66	3.87
146	126	Treas IL 2½% 2013	131	-	3.68	3.86
157	134	Treas IL 2½% 2016	140	-	3.70	3.87
153	128	Treas IL 2½% 2020	134 ‡	-	3.73	3.88
129	106	Treas IL 2½% 2024	111	-	3.73	3.87
128	105	Treas IL 4⅛% 2030	110	-	3.76	3.90

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FESTIVALS page 29
A large slice of Africa comes to Britain — and brings a new flavour to summer festivities

ARTS

OPERA page 30
Russian writer Victor Erofeyev is about to show Britain that idiocy knows no frontiers

Progress fit for a hero

OPERA: **Rodney Milnes** cheers as Bernard Haitink takes the Royal Opera's Wagner cycle to glorious heights

It is the combination of sterling musical values and a provocative yet thoughtful production that makes the Royal Opera's steadily developing *Ring* cycle so deeply satisfying. Without conducting as authoritative as Haitink's and a cast that is probably the best that could be assembled today, the Richard Jones/Nigel Lowery staging might look flashy, self-conscious even: without the staging the musical performance could seem near-abstract, and some of the singing workaday. But taken together the two apparently disparate elements strike hugely creative sparks off each other: I cannot remember a *Siegfried* that has gripped me so inexorably from first note to last.

Maybe Haitink has conducted neater first acts than on Monday's first night, but seldom can he have caught so persuasive a balance between the scherzo qualities of the score (springy rhythms, airy textures), its moments of louring darkness and its tenderness. As elsewhere in the cycle, it is the music associated with the *ewigweibliche* that seems to draw the most heartfelt response from him — the passages in which Siegfried sings about his mother, everything surrounding his first meeting with Brünnhilde. And there is an unashamed grandeur, a sense of white-hot drama about the whole of the third act that leaves you drop-jawed with wonder.

The gently symbolist Jones production goes from strength to strength (for the record, cheers were as vociferous as the drearily predictable boos — I'd call it a draw). The ecological theme proposed in the earlier operas is further developed: the forest to which Fafner has retired has been chopped down and replaced by a chipboard structure on which the manufacturer's marks are clearly visible.

The stage is littered with wardrobes, as telling a symbol of the unavoidable past as, in another context, woodsheds. Fafner lives in one; the gods, still searching for Valhalla during Wotan's interview with Erda, creep into them; so does the defeated Wotan. There is a magic wardrobe in Mime's kitchen, containing as much nastiness as you will find in any woodshed. For traditionalists, there's a ring of real fire, and Siegfried leaps through it; for puzzlers, there's a giant fly climbing up the side of the chimney against which Brünnhilde is asleep (I can't work that one out).

Siegfried
Covent Garden

But it is the depiction of the characters and their relationships that remains the greatest strength of the production. The first act is a tour de force, showing two people bound together by mutual dependence and mutual loathing: Siegfried, in short trousers, sullen and resentful, forever trying to leave home: and Mime, mindful of his self-proclaimed status as the boy's mother-and-father in one, sporting long greasy hair and a dress. He looks horribly like Hitchcock's Mrs Bates, and has a knife to match.

With hands clasped primly over his belly, unblinking eyes fixed on the audience, and a thin smile to freeze your very marrow, Graham Clark's portrayal is a monument of single-minded malevolence, and his going spectacularly mad while serving the hero his poisoned picnic is one of the most terrifying things I have seen in the theatre.

There is grotesquerie in plenty elsewhere: Carsten Stabell's Fafner, sharing Mime's dress, (the past, the past), seems to be making a play for Siegfried as much as trying to kill him, and gets his Hallowe'en pumpkin head sliced up for his pains. And there is, of course, comedy: Linda Kitchen's Woodbird has two friends, and they do a little dance of triumph like the Rhinemaidens. Nature gets the best steps.

But above all there is compassion. As well as being a political endgame, the first scene of Act III encompasses profound human tragedy as John Tomlinson's Wotan completes the journey he started in the earlier operas. He fights, discarding his Godot-style Wanderer's disguise in one last effort to defy fate as ruler of the world, but in defeat it is his humanity that is stressed — the tenderness of his feelings for Erda, his overwhelming love for the daughter in whose hands the future lies. Tomlinson, in fabulous voice for this scene, spares us (and himself) nothing dramatically: he is naked human emotion on legs.

As that daughter, Anne Evans sings with her accustomed radiance and musicianship. A pair of insignificant accidents apart, Siegfried Jerusalem's stamina in the title role is amazing: the hours pass without affecting the bronzed beauty of his tone. He too goes on a journey, finding long trousers along with the Ring in Fafner's wardrobe, and suggesting maturity simply by discarding his laddish titfer on Brünnhilde's rock. His vile cruelty to Wotan is part of that journey.

The Haitink-Jones *Ring* is adding up thrillingly. Next autumn's *Götterdämmerung* is awaited with barely containable impatience.

DONALD COOPER

Graham Clark as Mime — "a monument of single-minded malevolence" — and John Tomlinson, who "spares us nothing: he is naked human emotion on legs" as Wotan

THEATRE: Old Havel makes new points

Wicked days at the office

WRITTEN and produced in 1965 when its author, Vaclav Havel, was a relatively free man: first staged in this country 12 years later, when he had been placed under house arrest, this famous play is being revived at a time when he appears to have become incarcerated again, although now as his country's President.

The Velvet Revolution gives a special significance to the words spoken by the typist Maria, the only decent character in the play, trying to embolden her pusillanimous boss: "I believe that if one doesn't give way, truth must always come out in the end."

It has not done so when the play ends, and, perhaps, within the multiple ironies of the closing scene Maria herself has given way. Her boss's fatuous blatherings make her curiously happy. But on the other hand, this may be because she is leaving him to join her brother's theatre group — just such a group as the Theatre on the Balustrade, for whom *The Memorandum* was written.

Her boss is Josef Gross, who could well be known as Josef G, recalling Josef K, Kafka's hero, who woke up one morning to find himself arrested. Josef G arrives at his office to find himself being supplanted by his scheming deputy. The weapon used is a synthetic language called Ptydepe, pronounced in four syllables: P-tie-dip-py. This is supposed to increase the efficiency of inter-departmental memos and instead leads to impotence and chaos.

The Memorandum
Orange Tree,
Richmond

Havel writes amusing scenes in which this ghastly tongue is being taught, culminating in one where the instructor (John Baddeley) has suavely replaced it with another, based on directly opposite principles. But the play's real meat is the endless circling by Gross around the building, becoming ever deeper entangled in the deceit and betrayal. David Allister, in physique like a harassed Clement Attlee although twice the height, gives his voice the wobble of panic and his shoulders the hunched look of a beast of burden.

Shortly before the half-way mark the play is becalmed in repetition, and some of the Absurdist baggage has not worn well. But Sam Walters's production recovers in the second half, and the scenes between Allister and Victoria Hamilton, excellently conveying Maria's plucky goodness, are tense and eloquent.

Among the play's happier inventions is the character of Mr Pillar, played here by Ian Angus Wilkie in silence for almost the entire play, but communicating volumes by his nods, insouciant shakes of the head and ominous shrugs. In an office, or a nation, where human speech is condemned, silence may seem wise. But it fails to save Pillar. The only true course, even if it is foolhardy, is not to give way.

JEREMY KINGSTON

WORLD MUSIC: Eclectic Brazilian master

Skilful fingers plumb every pie

EGBERTO GISMONTI is an instrumentalist and composer who defies classification. Born in Carmo — a small town in Rio state where everyone stops to say *bom dia* — he has embraced every conceivable melodic idiom of Brazil, and many others from sources as diverse as north India and the Mississippi delta.

With long, thick hair (inherited, no doubt, from his Lebanese father) and knitted red skull-cap, Gismonti's relaxed demeanour belies the rigour of his technical discipline. He plays the guitar as handsomely as he does the piano, in which he was instructed by no less a teacher than Nadia Boulanger.

The rich magnet of Brazil, fortunately, drew him out of the conservatory. Inspired by Villa-Lobos, and the use made by him of the country's musical resources, Gismonti began to compose by reference to samba, *choro*, jazz, bossa and *baido*, using each style as but one ingredient for a new music.

In his performance on Sunday, Gismonti performed first on the guitar, his music contriving to be cerebral and infectious — and even erotic — at the same time. As he played, Gismonti evoked in turn the technique of Segovia, Sabicas, Manitas de Plata, and even Jimi Hendrix, all presided over by the benign ghost of Villa-Lobos.

Egberto Gismonti
Queen Elizabeth Hall

Always present, though, particularly in the percussive way in which he plucked the strings of his guitar, was the insistent rhythm of the train. Gismonti spent long hours as a youth counting the wagons on the goods trains that rumbled daily through his provincial childhood: the memory of these trains gave birth to *Trem caipira*, his album from 1985 in which he audaciously married the piano to the synthesizer.

That, in fact, was Gismonti's method after the interval. The accompaniment on synthesizer and double-bass of Nando Carneiro and Zeca Assumpção — correct in partnership with the guitar — acquired a more fertile voice as the piano assumed a Ravelesque colouring. The train was still there, however, even in a countryside lullaby that was as alluring as it was placid.

Called back twice for encores, Gismonti played a vivid *chorinho* and — in perhaps the most ravishing piece of the evening — a cruelly short Amerindian tune on a reed flute.

If it evoked the blues, it whispered also of his friendship with Sapain, a shaman whom Gismonti met in the jungle near the Xingu river.

TUNKU VARADARAJAN

Good and bad of the ugly

GALLERIES: **Jim McCue** on an exhibition that gives face, form and history to the art of the grotesque

Grotesque is a term both specific and confused. Technically, as the catalogue for this exhibition from the British Library collections explains, it denotes "a type of decorative ornament that was immensely fashionable throughout Europe between 1500 and 1800".

But although the form itself — mingling human and animal elements with foliage and geometry — is unfamiliar to us, it is bordered by many other kinds of fancy: gargoyles; friezes; rococo; the Gothic; caricature; science fiction; animation; surrealism; robotics.

The confusion began early. Etymologically, grotesques were murals found in the grottoes in Roman excavations around 1500, but the word was adopted for "antique, fretted, or carved worke" (John Florio, 1598) which, crucially, was at odds with nature. It was the realm, in George Santayana's words, of "the suggestively monstrous".

Grotesquerie jumbles animal, vegetable and mineral recklessly together. Heads grow on stalks; a man becomes his own grindstone or belltower; a gecko plays the flute that is its own snout.

The taste for such things is related to the fascination felt by 17th-century poets for such paradoxical creatures as the tortoise or seahorse, which appeared to break the rules of creation.

In a print, of course, the artist can invent whatever relations he pleases between, say, animals and their decorative frames (rather like elaborate wrought-iron gates); he can contort flesh for the sake of pattern, or extrude a mere doodle into a head or claw. A body may taper to a pilaster or shrimp's tail. Distortions which we might consider disturbing or frightening, like circus freaks, our forebears apparently found amusing.

This exhibition consists of examples from 22 sets of prints, ranging from the Rome of about 1530-35 to Naples in 1766-67. The earliest are by an engraver of Raphael's circle, Agostino Veneziano, who took ideas both from the classical grottoes and from the adaptations painted by Raphael and others in the Vatican Loggia for Pope Leo X in 1518-19.

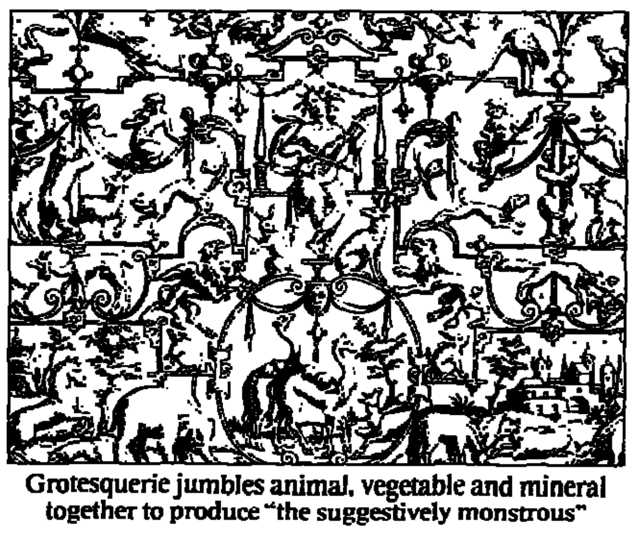
Veneziano's symmetrical arrangements of birds and lamps among swags and spirals are offered for other artists to steal from. Later, elaborate but impossible architectural designs take over, with arcades, pillars and vaults often framing a central panel as if for a ceiling, an engraved title-page or the lettering of a vault.

Arent van Bolten was one of a number of silversmiths and goldsmiths represented in the exhibition who had a sideline in grotesques. His drawings of "monstrous animals", some of them engraved in the 1630s for a Parisian publisher, are indebted to the creatures of Hieronymous Bosch, and are just as curious to us. What inspires such studies of ugliness, or is that value judgment an anachronism?

If van Bolten anticipates the discovery in the Burgess Shale of alternative biologies which might have flourished in our stead, Giovanni Battista Bracelli's articulated figures are more like aliens from *Dr Who*, and Aloisio Giovannoli's masks like Arcimboldo heads without the fruit.

Then, gradually, the grotesque shades off into French classicism (Anne of Austria had a bathroom decorated in grotesque style), or into whimsy such as von Bommel's animals made from twists of foliage (but in poses perhaps taken from naturalistic paintings).

The last works in the exhibition still show the influence of grotesque, but have become something else (such as chinoiserie). Taste had moved on, and true grotesque had begun to appear merely quaint. By the 1880s, the term could be applied to anything from Doré's engravings to absurd coiffure.



Grotesquerie jumbles animal, vegetable and mineral together to produce "the suggestively monstrous"

● The Grotesque, *sponsored by BT, is at the Whitworth Gallery, Manchester, until April 8; at the Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter, April 15-June 10, and then on national tour*

RECITAL: A technically solid performer finally reveals his more dashing profile

Who dares wins

WHILE garnering some impressive reviews over the past few years and carrying off a number of prizes in international competitions, the British pianist Andrew Wilde still has not quite achieved the reputation his admirers believe he deserves.

Wilde is an unflashy pianist, solid of technique and thoughtful of approach. His programme featured two composers only, Chopin and Haydn, and I liked his idea of grouping five of the former's mazurkas in, respectively, D flat, C sharp minor, C, C minor and B. He played them without a break, tracing a downward spiral of melancholy, which he counterpointed with a forthright, richly coloured performance of the concluding work, in B. Thus the twin aspects of the genre — their interior and exterior characteristics — were neatly combined.

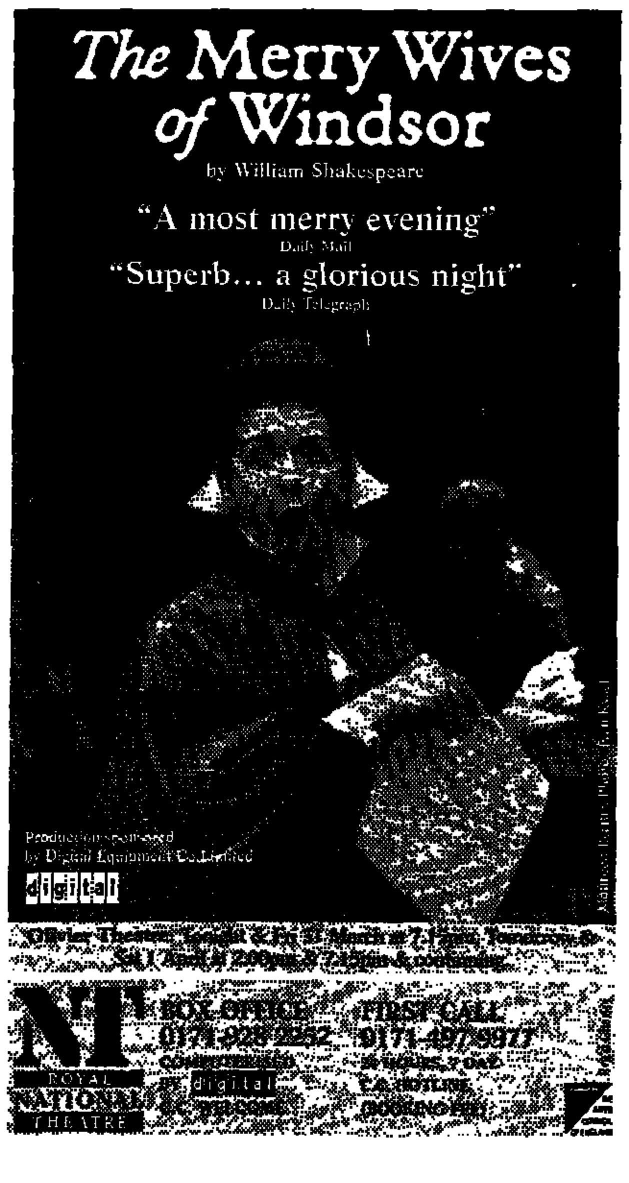
Andrew Wilde
Wigmore Hall

Wilde's playing has a somewhat disconcerting directness, seen clearly in the two Haydn sonatas, H.XVI:20 in C minor and H.XVI:42 in D. The principal theme of the latter was announced sturdily on each appearance, although it was tapered every time into a melting feminine cadence. Whether such a Romanticised gesture is stylistically appropriate in a Haydn sonata is highly questionable, but one could not deny the engaging quality of the playing, which allowed for the theme to be rendered interrogatively towards the end of the movement. The Vivace finale was a tour de force of controlled virtuosity, with a delightful throwaway ending.

The concluding Chopin group demonstrated similar mannerisms in a different style. One might have expected the first of the two Op 27 Nocturnes, in C sharp minor, to begin with an evocatively distant arpeggio deep in the bass. Instead it was launched a notch or two louder than the marked pianissimo, but once again the opening phrase dissolved before long in a finely graded, heartwarming shift of perspective. The second Nocturne, switching to the major, followed immediately, spinning an elegantly decorated bel canto melodic line.

The final Ballade No 1 in G minor brought out a side of this player of which one would like to have heard more: the performance took wing in a state of something approaching ecstasy, with a secure technique always in the service of musical values.

BARRY MILLINGTON



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THE THEATRE CLUB

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From Brighton to Orkney, from pop to Pinter: **Kate Bassett** offers a guide to the top British festivals of 1995

Festive delights of the summer

Ugandan artist M.K. Mulindwe's work is included in *7+7=1 — Seven Stories about Modern Art in Africa* at the Whitechapel Art Gallery: part of Africa 95 starting in August

APRIL

Glasgow Mayfest: A key international festival that programmes classical and world music, comedy and drama. Mayfest 95 balances tea dances with technology-inspired entertainment on the banks of the River Clyde. Plus a hot theatre programme that offers Robert Lepage and Ingmar Bergman's company, Dramaten.
Apr 27 — May 20 (0141-552 8000)

Kendal: An admirable festival of innovative physical theatre and dance with V-Tol, Volcano, Snarling Beasties and more at the Brewery Arts Centre in beautiful Cumbria.
Apr 21 — 30 (01539 725133)

London Handel: A festival of Handel and his contemporaries, mostly in Handel's parish church — St George's, Hanover Square — and including a staging of *Deidamia*.
Until Apr 27 (0181-336 0990)

MAY

Aria: A month of opera in Essex venues.
May 24 — Jun 17 (01245 436825)

Barclays New Stages: Theatrically pioneering productions by independent companies, from Doo Cot's puppets to performer/filmmaker Annie Griffin, at the Royal Court, the South Bank and around Nottinghamshire.
May 13 — Jun 3 (0171-730 1745 or 0115-941 9419)

Bath: International music — classical, contemporary and folk — in beautiful Bath. Jazz with Sonny Rollins, spirituals from South Africa's Vaal Reef Chorists. Opening night celebrations feature street performers and fireworks in the Royal Crescent.
May 19 — Jun 4 (01225 462231)

Beverley: Early music in the medieval town with the snug Gothic Minster, this year with a European slant. The Corona Coloniensis choir joins the German ensemble Musica Fiata. The Gabrieli Consort performs Purcell's odes.
May 11 — 14 (01904 645738)

Irek Mukhamedov: *King and I* in Covent Garden

Bournemouth: The merriment moves to May with artists-in-residence, literary events, rock and jazz. Classical music comes from the resort's renowned Symphony Orchestra and the Mecklenburgh Opera. Piano Circus will make contemporary music, and the pier hosts comedy. Theatrical fare includes Theatre de Complicite and the Oxford Stage Company.
May 12 — 28 (01202 297327)

Brighton: A major bonanza in the Regency town with recitals in the Royal Pavilion, besides afternoons at Glyndebourne with Andras Schiff and the Borodin Quartet. An impressive literary line-up and a strong theatre programme includes Out Of Joint, the Wrestling School, and the National Theatre of Craiova.
May 5 — 28 (01273 676926)

Cardiff Bay Jazz: Troubled by the loss of a sponsor, the festival is battling on with jazz in the Norwegian Church.
May 27 — 29 (01222 340591)

Chelmsford Cathedral: Gillian Weir and Simon Preston play the new organ. Lunchtime chamber music: Britten's *Curlew River*.
May 11 — 20 (01245 359890)

Covent Garden: The BOC Festival includes Dame Gwyneth Jones in the Freemasons' Hall, ballet star Irek Mukhamedov in *The King and I*, and *Trial by Jury* in Bow Street Court.
May 8 — 21 (0171-240 0560, box office 0171-312 1990)

Glyndebourne: New productions of Rossini's *Ermione* (directed by Graham Vick) and Janáček's *The Makropulos Case* (director Nikolaus Lehnhoff, both conducted by Andrew Davis) join Birtwistle's *The Second Mrs Kong*, Mozart's *La clemenza di Tito*, Tchaikovsky's *The Queen of Spades* and Deborah Warner's controversial production of Mozart's *Don Giovanni*. Tickets range from £105 to £10.
May 22 — Aug 27 (01273 813813)

Hay: A major bonanza of literature in the Black Mountains with Nadine Gordimer, Iain Banks *et al*.
May 26 — Jun 4 (01497 821217, box office 01497 821229)

Jersey: Jersey's first major artsfest will be rejoicing in 50 years of freedom. Shakespeare in the castle, plus Julian Bream, Paco Pena and talks.
May 15 — 29 (01534 873767)

Malvern: Music and the arts amidst the Worcestershire hills, featuring British composers and *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Madam Butterfly* and *Die Fledermaus*.
May 20 — Jun 3 (01684 572725)

Newbury: The Bournemouth and Budapest Symphony Orchestras congregate in St Nicholas's Church. George Melly lectures on Max Ernst and artists open their studios.
May 6 — 20 (01635 32421)

Pride: London's celebration of gay creativity ranges from Sandi Toksvig doing stand-up to the Pride Literary Festival at the National Theatre.
May 27 — Jun 24 (0171-738 7644)

Salisbury: An enticing line-up with the premiere of Steve Reich's *City Life*, comedy from Lee Evans, the Blind Boys of Alabama with gospel in the cathedral, and Natural Theatre Company running wild in the Market Place.
May 12 — 29 (01722 323883)

Sheffield: Chamber music, especially Bach and Mozart, are celebrated in the Crucible Studio Theatre with the Lindsay String Quartet and the Ricercata de Paris.
May 13 — 27 (01904 645738)

Turning World: A London celebration of dance spanning The Place, QEH, Sadler's Wells and the Lilian Baylis. The international programme embraces O Vertigo and Tolada Dance Company.
May 23 — Jun 17 (0171-387 0031)

JUNE

Aldeburgh: Unsurprisingly, the festival founded by Britten is commemorating the 50th anniversary of *Peter Grimes*. *The Wildman*, Nicola Lefanu's opera, based on a legend of local fishermen netting a hairy creature, receives its premiere. There are tributes to Tippett and Purcell, with Jane Glover conducting *The Fairy Queen*. The composer-in-residence is Magnus Lindberg and Elliott Carter has written a song cycle for Lucy Shelton.
Jun 9 — 25 (01728 452935)

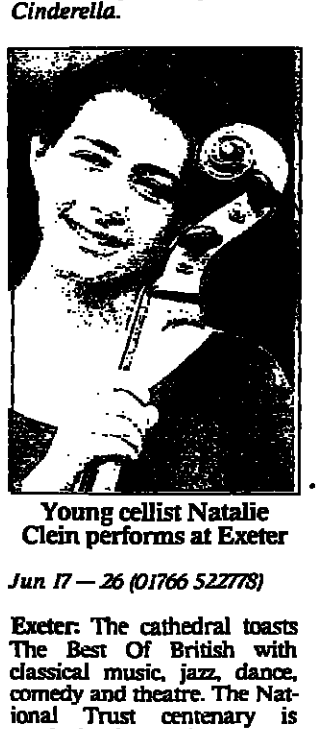
Bradford: More than 1,000 events import talent, from Cossacks to Pakistani puppeteers, and celebrate the city's cultural diversity. A carnival parade on celluloid themes marks cinema's centenary. Meanwhile, BAF! is Bradford's festival of animated film, and Lister Park is the venue for MELA ("festival" in Urdu) with food, music and comedy.
Jun 23 — Jul 8 (01274 309199)

Chelsea: Jazz, fashion shows, tea dances and classical music around Sloane Square.
Jun 4 — 10 (0171-824 8219)

City of London: Classical music, jazz and Arts Fair in such splendid places as St Paul's and the Tower.
Jun 20 — Jul 7 (0171-638 8891)

Cressing: Baroque music and *Don Giovanni* staged by Opera Box in Braintree's medieval barn-temple. Opus Anglicanum, the Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields and folksongs will be heard.
Jun 20 — 30 (01245 436825)

Criccieth: Music in this small Welsh town with fireworks at the castle. The Lontano Ensemble pops in: Welsh National Opera performs *Cinderella*.
Jun 17 — 26 (01766 522778)



Young cellist Natalie Clein performs at Exeter

Exeter: The cathedral toasts The Best Of British with classical music, jazz, dance, comedy and theatre. The National Trust centenary is marked with park concerts. Lesley Garrett sings. Natalie Clein plays the cello.
Jun 29 — Jul 16 (01392 265118)

Garsington: A rare chance to hear Richard Strauss's *Daphne*, directed by David Fielding. Mozart's *Der Schauspieldirektor* and Rossini's *La Cenerentola* are joined by David Pountney's first Haydn staging, *La fedeltà premiata*. The al fresco performances are on the Jacobean manor's terrace. Dinner in the Great Barn, or you can picnic.
Jun 11 — Jul 9 (01865 361636)

Glastonbury: The fields of Somerset are studded with rock stars for a festival that celebrates its 25th birthday this year. Tickets are £65 (advance only).
Jun 23 — 5 (hotline 01839 668899, tickets 01179 767868)

Greenwich: A fine local festival celebrating its silver jubilee from the riverfront to the Old Royal Observatory, with classical music, jazz, theatre, a new literary accent and cinema. The programme promises Janet Suzman, and madcap Ken Campbell.
Jun 2 — 18 (0181-305 1818)

Gwyl Gregynog: Classical music in a Welsh mock-Tudor mansion.
Jun 24 — Jul 1 (01686 625007)

Hampton Court: Outdoor concerts, including Lord Menuhin, held in the stunning setting of Base Court. An extended interval lets you picnic in the Great Fountain Garden or wander through state apartments entertained by performers.
Jun 7 — 20 (Ticketmaster 0171-344 4444)

London International Festival of Theatre (LIFT): This biennial event imports intriguing performances including Indonesian dance and South African drama. Deborah Warner directs in London's craziest closed building, St Pancras Chambers, and Berlin's Volksbuhne performs in an old distillery.
Jun 11 — Jul 9 (0171-490 3964)

Ludlow: *Richard III* will be staged in the ruined Norman Castle, once home to his unfortunate nephews. Beverley Craven joins the BBC Big Band and Crystal Clear Opera presents Peter Brook's version of *Carmen*.
Jun 24 — Jul 9 (01584 872150)

Lufthansa Baroque Music: A delightful feast of early music in the Wigmore Hall and in Wren's St James's Church, Piccadilly. Purcell and his contemporaries are feted by Musica Antiqua Köln, Florilegium, Corelliana, and Al Ayre Espanol.
Jun 14 — Jul 13 (0171-228 6388)

Meltdown: Elvis Costello joins forces with London's South Bank Centre to create a week of unexpected music. Costello and the Brodsky Quartet play Weill while top composers re-score films.
Jun 23 — Jul 1 (0171-921 8800)

St Magnus: Indigenous and international talent on the Orkney Islands where the sun barely sets. Including Lefanu's opera *The Wildman*, and Kevin Crossley-Holland as festival poet.
Jun 16 — 21 (01856 872669)

Spitalfields: The concerts are in Hawksmoor's acoustically beautiful Christ Church in the East End. Purcell's masques, fantasias and odes are joined by premieres by McBurney and Woolrich. Emma Kirkby and The Sixteen are billed.
Jun 7 — 28 (0171-377 0287)

Stour: Devoted to Purcell, from tavern songs to sacred music, the festival plays host to the King's Consort, Michael Chance and more.
Jun 16 — 25 (01233 812740)

Thaxted: Concerts in the spired church with the English Baroque Choir and English Sinfonia. Billie Whitelaw gives readings.
Jun 23 — Jul 16 (01371 870296)

JULY

BBC Henry Wood Promenade Concerts: Much new music is promised for this year, the Proms' centenary. In the Albert Hall as usual. The prospectus is published in early May.
Jul 21 — Sept 16 (0191-222 0381)

Birmingham Jazz: All around the city, 90 per cent free.
Jul 7 — 16 (0121-454 7020)

Bury St Edmunds: Ten years old, the festival centres on the cathedral and the market town's pretty theatres. High-profile classical musicians are joined by Jools Holland and a Flamenco Fiesta.
Jul 12 — 29 (01284 757097)

Buxton: The exquisite Edwardian opera house in the Peak District spa town hosts Britten's *The Turn of the Screw* (Pimlico Opera) and Monteverdi's *The Return of Ulysses* (directed by Annabel Arden). The Holst Singers and the Tallis Scholars are booked in, as well as cabaret and jazz.
Jul 12 — 29 (01298 70395)

Cambridge: The Folk Festival, with everyone from Elvis Costello to Sharon Shannon, is just part of Summer In The City. The Midsummer Fair falls in June followed by the Summer Recitals season, the Bumps, Big Days Out in the parks, the Film Festival and visual arts on the fringe.
Folk Festival, Jul 28 — 30 (01223 463363). Summer In The City, mainly in July (01223 463363)

Cheltenham Music: This fine international festival expands on symphony orchestras and focuses on Hungarian music, with numerous major names and new operas from Woolrich and Adès. Also dance, jazz and film.
Jul 1 — 16 (01242 521621)

Chester: Summer music ranges from lunchtime concerts to late-night jazz in the walled city. Virtuoso pianist Nikolai Demidenko is scheduled. The City of London Sinfonia performs Handel's *Saul* and the King's Consort celebrates Purcell.
July 14 — 20 (01244 320722)

Chichester Festivities: There are classical and jazz concerts with the cathedral as the hub of culture. The cloisters take on contemporary sculpture. *Don Giovanni* will be seen at Goodwood House. A fireworks spectacular accompanies the Tattoo at the Racecourse. Meanwhile, the Chichester theatre season (Apr 26 — Oct 7, 01243 781312) boasts Harold Pinter in his own play *The Hothouse* and Derek Jacobi in *Hadrian VII*.
Jul 2 — 18 (01243 785718)

Dartington Summer School: Intensive music-making with master classes and workshops on anything from the sackbut to African drums. Also, from Aug 28 to Sept 4, there is the literary Way With Words Festival at Dartington Hall, with David Lodge, Malcolm Bradbury and more.
Jul 22 — Aug 26 (01803 867068, Way With Words 01803 867311)

Fishguard: Choirs, orchestras and recitals in Fishguard and at St David's Cathedral, plus the Pembrokeshire scenery and coastal path.
Jul 22 — 29 (01348 873612)

Harrogate: The 30th year of merriment opens with music from Kent Nagano and the Hallé Orchestra. The line-up continues with Julian Lloyd Webber and "New Waver" Steve Martland. Also street theatre, comedy and jazz.
Jul 27 — Aug 11 (01423 565757)

Henley: A popular season on the site of the regatta with a floating stage. The Labeque Sisters play Poulenc's double piano concerto and Marion Montgomery sings jazz.
Jul 5 — 8 (01491 411353)

Elvis Costello: one of the attractions in Cambridge

King's Lynn: Revels in the old East Anglian port.
Jul 15 — 29 (01553 773578)

Lake District Summer: Chamber music by Lake Windermere. Concerts, lunchtime recitals, and talks with distinguished musicians who are coaching at the attached summer school.
Jul 29 — Aug 12 (01539 733411)

Lichfield: *Measure for Measure* in the open air and photographs by Lord Lichfield. The cathedral marks its 800th birthday with Sinfonia 21, Elgar Howarth, Ian Bostridge, Peter Donohoe, the Hallé Orchestra *et al*.
Jul 7 — 16 (01543 257298)

Llangollen Eisteddfod: Choirs are everywhere, national costumes run amok, folk dancers cavort, and Pavarotti appears with his father.
Jul 4 — 9 (01978 860236)

Medway: In the gardens of Rochester Castle, you may hear the Romanian National Opera, soul, or music from the Jazz Age, with canon fire and water fountains for a finale.
Jul 22 — 29 (01634 403868)

Peterborough Cathedral: Concerts by the London Mozart Players and English Sinfonia in the cathedral. Bryan Kelly, composer-in-residence, talks on Purcell.
Jul 1 — 7 (01733 343342)

St Albans: There are two organ competitions at the cathedral in the old Roman city, as well as talks, excursions, and exhibitions. Concerts include the BBC Philharmonic and Jacques Loussier.
Jul 6 — 15 (01727 846126)

Warwick and Leamington: Firework concerts at Warwick Castle: Nettle & Markham with their double piano; *Rigoletto* staged by Pimlico Opera; and commissions from young composers Andrew Duncan and Mark Blatchley. The Czech Music Festival Weekend (May 5 to 9) features Dvořák and Janáček.
Jul 1 — 16 (01926 410747)

Womad: The main world-music jamboree this year will be on the banks of the Thames in Reading with global food, crafts, and music from Ali Farka Toure (Mali) to Capercaillie (Scotland).
Jul 21 — 23 (01225 743188)

York Early Music: This admired celebration concentrates on Purcell for 1995, with Emma Kirkby and Evelyn Tubb singing his last songs. The city's medieval churches and houses are as exquisite as ever. The next York Festival and Mystery Plays is in 1996.
Jul 7 — 16 (01904 658338)

AUGUST

Africa 95: Five months of African arts embracing dance, photography, film, theatre, music, a tour of writers, reggae and rap in Birmingham, and art at the Royal Academy and Whitechapel.
From Aug 12 (0171-637 4388)

Arundel: The castle and its grounds provide an impressive setting for Shakespeare and other things. Artistic director Graeme Jenkins conducts the City of London Sinfonia, and the Nash Ensemble is in residence. Artists open their homes.
Aug 25 — Sept 3 (01903 883690)

Brecon Jazz: Small Welsh market town goes wild in the shadow of the Beacons.
Aug 11 — 13 (01874 625557)

Edinburgh: The world's best-known festival is nearing its 50th birthday. Alongside the huge Fringe which stuffs Scotland's capital with drama and comedy, the International Festival has Peter Zadek, Peter Sellars, Patrice Chéreau and Pina Bausch. Claudio Abbado and Pierre Boulez conduct. The Drambuie Edinburgh Film Festival (Aug 13-27) has its eye on innovation.
Aug 13 — Sept 2 (International Festival 0131-226 4001, Festival Fringe 0131-226 5257, Film Festival 0131-228 4051)

Gloucester: Embracing orchestras and recitals, the Three Choirs Festival is Europe's longest-standing choral celebration, with commissions from Mark Blatchley and Ian Venables and a focus on women composers.
Aug 19 — 26 (01452 529819)

Notting Hill: London's giant street carnival celebrating black culture, and happily trouble-free in recent years.
Aug 27 — 28 (0181-964 0544)

Vale of Glamorgan: A celebration of living composers, including Andriessen, Martland and Nancarrow. Premieres by Martin Butler and Pwyll ap Sion.
Aug 12 — 20 (01446 794848)

SEPTEMBER

Cardiff: The theme is Fun, Fable and Fantasy with mythic music from Wagner, Walton, Stravinsky and Rimsky-Korsakov and appearances by soprano Anne Evans, conductor Mark Wigglesworth, Welsh National Opera (with a new *Nabucco*), and Pam Eyres.
Sept 9 — Oct 7 (01222 342611)

North Wales, St Asaph: Fine music for Britain's smallest and acoustically top-notch cathedral, with King's College Choir and the King's Consort.
Sept 16 — 23 (01745 584508)

OCTOBER

Canterbury: A commendable mixed-arts festival with cathedral concerts, the Moscow Chamber Orchestra, and saxophonist Jan Garbarek. George Newson's new opera is joined by Purcell's masque for *Dioclesian* (Kent Opera). The National Theatre of Sarajevo's *Antony and Cleopatra* stars Vanessa Redgrave.
Oct 7 — 21 (01227 452853)

Cheltenham Literature: A major festival of famous writers. Themed days cover sport, marriage and prison.
Oct 6 — 15 (01242 521621)

Liverpool Visionfest: Taking an unusual angle, Liverpool's celebration of visual art and design embraces sculpture, photography, architecture, and computer images.
Oct 2 — 29 (0151-708 9857)

Dance Umbrella: This contemporary-dance festival amasses international artists in London and includes a new work from DV8.
Oct 9 — Nov 5 (0181-741 4040)

Norfolk and Norwich: Norwich goes Greek with bouzouki bands, Jodi Diss re-creating Isadora Duncan's Grecian dances, and the orchestra La Camerata in the cathedral. Beyond that, there are quality classical concerts, jazz, film and dance.
Oct 5 — 15 (01603 764764)

● **A guide to European festivals will appear next Wednesday**

BBC *Symphony* Orchestra

Wednesday 29 March Royal Festival Hall 7.30pm

Alexander Lazarev conductor
Simon Bainbridge conductor*
Christine Cairns mezzo-soprano
Kim Walker bassoon
Rimsky-Korsakov May Night
Simon Bainbridge Ad Ora Incerta - Four Orchestral Songs from Primo Levi*
(BBC Commission - world premiere)
Tchaikovsky Manfred Symphony

Saturday 1 April Royal Festival Hall 7.30pm

Alexander Lazarev conductor
Nathalie Stutzmann mezzo-soprano
Wagner Overture 'Tannhäuser'
Mahler Kindertotenlieder
Shostakovich Symphony No. 15

All seats £10 and unreserved,
£5 for children, students, unemployed and over 60s
Phone 0171 928 8800 to book your tickets.

LONDON

BBC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: The great German mezzo-soprano Brigitte Fassbaender appears tonight for the world premiere of Simon Bainbridge's *Ad Ora Incerta* — Four Orchestra Songs from Primo Levi; Bainbridge conducts his work, with Kim Walker as the solo bassoonist. Alexander Lazarev then takes the podium for Tchaikovsky's *Manfred Symphony*. Fassbaender appears again on Sat.
Festival Hall, South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 8800). Tonight, 7.30pm. 🅂

TONIGHT AT THE WIGMORE: A trio of saxophone, classical accordian and piano start off a new season of the Wigmore's Rush Hour concerts: John Harle, James Crabb and David Owen Norris are the team for the live BBC Radio 3 series. Lyric tenor **John Aler** and pianist **Jeff Cohen** then change the pace for the last in the current French Season with a programme of Bizet, Saint-Saëns, Duparc, Fauré and Dupont.
Wigmore Hall, Wigmore Street, W1 (0171-935 2141). 6pm and 8pm. 🅂

DAVID LEACH: An exhibition of works from this master potter opens today. Leach has a huge range of styles, including his popular cut flutings and porcelain and stoneware in a variety of glazes. A must see for anyone interested in the art form.
Galerie Besson, Royal Arcade, W1 (0171-491 1706). Tue-Fri, 10am-5.30pm; Sat 10am-12.30pm. Until Apr 28.

TODAY'S EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

BOB DYLAN: Dylan embarks on his most comprehensive UK tour for 30 years this month. At his shows in Prague recently he played a set that was liberally laced with old favourites, accompanied for the first half-hour or so by only his acoustic guitar and harmonica. Elvis Costello graces a support slot.
Brixton Academy, Stockwell Road, SW9 🅂 (0171-924 9999). Tonight-Fri. Then in **Birmingham** 🅂 (0121-328 5377), Apr 2; **Manchester** 🅂 (0161-242 2560), Apr 3-5

ELSEWHERE

BUXTON: English Touring Theatre takes Wilde's **The Importance of Being Earnest** on a spring tour. With the formidable Bette Bourne as Lady B; Nicholas Wright directs.
Opera House, Water Street (0298 72190). Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm; mats today, 1.30 and Sat, 2.30pm.

GLASGOW: The Citizens offers a free preview tonight of Pinter's **Betrayal**: a brooding comedy of sexual manners whose plot moves backward in time. David Fielding directs Amanda Elwes, Adrian Howells, Michael Jenn and Gerrard McArthur.
Circle Studio, Citizens, Gorbals (0141-429 0022). Tonight, tickets at the door only from 6.30pm. Opens tomorrow, then Tue-Sat, 7.30pm. 🅂

PLYMOUTH: A touring production of **The Seagull** starts here, with Deborah Findlay, Kate Beckinsale and Aden Gillet. Directed by Robert Sturua, artistic director of the Rustaveli Theatre, Tbilisi.
Theatre Royal, Royal Parade (01752 267222). Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Thurs and Sat, 2.30pm.

STRATFORD UPON AVON: When the Evil One arrives on earth in Ben Jonson's **The Devil is an Ass** he finds humans already adept at trickery. Cast includes John Nettles, David Troughton and Sheila Steafel. Matthew Warchus directs.
Swan, Waterside (01789-295623). Previews begin tonight, 7.30pm; opens April 4, 7pm. 🅂

LONDON GALLERIES

Barbican: Impressionism in Britain (0171-638-4141) ... **British Museum**: Mexican Gallery (0171-636 1555) ... **Crafts Council**: Furniture Today: Design and Craft, final week (071-278 7700) ... **Hayward**: Yves Klein (071-928 3144) ... **National Gallery**: Spanish Still Life: from Velásquez to Goya (0171-839 3321) ... **National Portrait Gallery**: Richard Avedon (0171-306 0055) ... **Royal Academy**: Nicolas Poussin (0171-439 7438) ... **Tate**: Willem de Kooning (0171-887 8000) **V&A**: Nehru Gallery (0171-938 8500)

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ House full, returns only
◩ Some seats available
☐ Seats at all prices

◩ ***AIN'T MISBEHAVIN'***: Exhilaratin' song 'n' dance show created from the hits of Fats Waller. Non-stop energy on feet.
Lyric, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5045). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 5pm.

☐ **CONVERSATIONS WITH MY FATHER:** Judd Hirsch re-creates his Tony Award-winning performance in Herb Gardner's play, covering 40 years of Jewish experience in New York. When all's told, it's fairly thin stuff. Alan Ayckbourn directs.
Old Vic, Waterloo Road, SE1 (0171-928 7616). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Wed and Sat, 2.30pm. 🅂

☐ **DESIGN FOR LIVING.** Rachel Weisz, Rupert Graves and Marcus D'Amico in Coward's *menage à trois* comedy. Sean Mathias's award-winner, with even more sexual rough and tumble than at the Donmar.
Gielgud, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5065). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 4pm. 🅂

☐ **IN PRAISE OF LOVE.** Peter Bowles and Lisa Harrow in Rattigan drama about bravely facing death. Interesting and finally touching as it shows the effects, ill and good, of emotional restraint.
Apollo, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5070). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 5pm.

◩ **INDIAN INK:** Felicity Kendal, Art Malik and Margaret Tyzack in Tom Stoppard's latest, wittily, poignantly, exploring aspects of Anglo-Indian resentments and respect.
Aldwych, Aldwych, WC2 (0171-416 6003). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm.

◩ **LUST AND COMFORT:** Gay Sweatshop team up with New York's Split Britches for a two-woman show straddling three decades of London life. Described as "a provocative exploration of gender, class and the abuse of power".
Lyric Studio, King Street, Hammersmith, W6 (0181-741 2311). Opens tonight, 8pm. Then Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Sat, 4.30pm. Until Apr 15.

☐ **MAMA I WANT TO SING:** The longest-running Off-Broadway black musical, based on the life of the Harlem singer Doris Troy (who here plays her own mother). Cast includes the charismatic Chaka Khan.
Cambridge, Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-494 5080). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Tue and Sat, 3pm. Until Apr 8.

◩ **THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR:** Terry Hands's first production here, after his long time in charge of the RSC. Denis Quilley plays the fat knight and Richard McCabe an insanely jealous husband.
National (Olivier), South Bank SE1 (0171-928 2252). Tonight-Sat, 7.15pm, mats Thurs and Sat, 2pm. 🅂

◩ **THE MOSQUITO COAST.** Outstanding production by the David Glass Ensemble, dramatising Paul Theroux's novel of the crazed American who drags his family into the jungle. Striking visual effects. **Lucky**, the latest of Glass's thrilling pieces, is on until Sat in the Studio.
Young Vic, The Cut, SE1 (0171-928 6363). Opens tonight, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; until Apr 22

☐ **UP'N'UNDER**: John Godber's rugby play, done by Hull Truck. Enthusiastic 'n 'simple. Leave your brains in the changing room.
Playhouse, Northumberland Avenue, WC2 (0171-839 4401). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 5pm. 🅂

◩ **THE WINTER GUEST:** Phyllida Law and Sian Thomas head Alan Rickman's sensitively directed cast in Sharman Macdonald's fine play about loss, survival, the perils and joys of life.
Almeida, Almeida Street, N1 (0171-359 4404). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat Sat, 4pm. Until Apr 15. 🅂

LONG RUNNERS

☐ **Arcadia**: Haymarket (0171-930 8800) ... ◩ **Blood Brothers**: Phoenix (0171-867 1044) ... ☐ **Buddy**: Victoria Palace (0171-834 1317) ... ◩ **Cats**: New London (0171-405 0072) ... ☐ **Copacabana**: Prince of Wales (0171-839 5972) ... ☐ **Crazy for You**: Prince Edward (0171-734 8951) ... ☐ **Don't Dress for Dinner**: Duchess (0171-494 5070) ... ◩ **Grease**: Dominion (0171-416 6060) ... ◩ **Les Misérables**: Palace (0171-434 0909) ... ◩ **Miss Saigon**: Theatre Royal (0171-494 5400) ... ☐ **The Mousetrap**: St Martin's (0171-836 1443) ... ☐ **My Night With Reg**: Criterion (0171-839 4488) ... ■ **Oliver!**: Palladium (0171-494 5020) ... ☐ **Only the Lonely**: Piccadilly (0171-369 1734) ... ◩ **A Passionate Woman**: Comedy (0171-369 1731) ... ■ **The Phantom of the Opera**: Her Majesty's (0171-494 5400) ... ☐ **She Loves Me**: Savoy (0171-836 8888) ... ☐ **Starlight Express**: Apollo Victoria (0171-828 8665) ... ◩ **Sunset Boulevard**: Adelphi (0171-344 0055) ... ■ **Three Tall Women**: Wyndhams (0171-369 1736) ... ◩ **The Woman in Black**: Fortune (0171-836 2238)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre.

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

◆ **DROP ZONE** (15): Wesley Snipes goes undercover to catch sky-diving criminals. Good aerial stunts; otherwise, an empty action thriller. With Yancy Butler and Gary Busey. Director, John Badham.
MGM Trocadero 🅂 (0171-434 0031) **Plaza** (0800 888997) **UCI Whiteleys** 🅂 (0171-792 3332) **Warner** 🅂 (0171-437 4343)

THE MADNESS OF KING GEORGE (PG): Nigel Hawthorne reigns supreme as Alan Bennett's tormented monarch. A fine film transfer by stage director Nicholas Hytner; with Helen Mirren and Ian Holm.
Barbican 🅂 (0171-638 8891) **Chelsea** (0171-351 3742) **Gate** 🅂 (0171-727 4043) **Lumiere** (0171-836 0691) **MGMs: Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Odeon Kensington** (01426 914666) **Screen/Hill** 🅂 (0171-435 3366) **UCI Whiteleys** 🅂 (0171-792 3332) **Warner** 🅂 (0171-437 4343)

MI VIDA LOCA (15): Unfocused tales of LA gang life, from a female perspective. Allison Anders (*Gas Food Lodging*) directs.
Electric 🅂 (0171-792 2020) **Metro** (0171-437 0757)

NOBODY'S FOOL (15): Endearing slice of small-town Americana, with Paul Newman, Melanie Griffith, Bruce Willis and Jessica Tandy. Writer-director, Robert Benton.
Odeon West End (01426-915 574)

CURRENT

◆ **DISCLOSURE** (18): Michael Douglas says no to Demi Moore. Superficially enjoyable version of Michael Crichton's sexual harassment novel. Director, Barry Levinson.
Barbican 🅂 (0171-638 8891) **MGMs: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** 🅂 (0171-434 0031) **Notting Hill Coronet** 🅂 (0171-727 6705) **Odeon Marble Arch** (01426 914501) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **UCI Whiteleys** 🅂 (0171-792 3332) **Warner** 🅂 (0171-437 4343)

◆ **FORREST GUMP** (12): Endearing if indulgent odyssey through post-war America, ideal for baby boomers. With Tom Hanks. Director, Robert Zemeckis.
Empire (0800 888911) **MGM Baker Street** (0171-935 9772)

IMMORTAL BELOVED (15): Gary Oldman is Beethoven, but the film still ends up worthy and dull. With Jeroen Krabbe and Isabella Rossellini, writer-director, Bernard Rose.
Empire 🅂 (0800 888911) **MGM Fulham Road** 🅂 (0171-370 2636) **UCI Whiteleys** 🅂 (0171-792 3332)

◆ **I.Q.** (U): Albert Einstein steers his niece towards romance with an ordinary Joe. Overly cute comedy with Meg Ryan, Tim Robbins and Walter Matthau.
Empire (0800 888911) **MGMs: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** 🅂 (0171-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** 🅂 (0171-792 3332)

◆ ***LITTLE WOMEN*** (U): Fresh, tender, feminist version of the 19th-century classic, with Winona Ryder, Susan Sarandon, and Gabriel Byrne.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **MGM Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Leicester Square** (0426-915 683) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** 🅂 (0171-792 3332)

◆ **NELL** (12): Doctor Liam Neeson nurtures backwoods wild child Jodie Foster. Well acted, well meant, but glutinous. Director, Michael Apted.
MGMs: Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **West End** (01426 915574) **UCI Whiteleys** 🅂 (0171-792 3332)

◆ **PRIEST** (15): Torment of a gay Catholic priest. Overwrought drama that still packs a punch. Antonia Bird directs Linus Roache, Tom Wilkinson.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **Curzon West End** (0171-369 1722) **MGM Fulham Road** 🅂 (0171-370 2636) **Renoir** (0171-837 8402) **Screen/Green** (0171-226 3520) **Warner** 🅂 (0171-437 4343)

◆ **PULP FICTION** (18): Quentin Tarantino's flamboyant crime epic weaves together three tales from the LA underworld. With John Travolta, Bruce Willis and Samuel L. Jackson.
MGM Haymarket (0171-839 1527) **Phoenix** (0181-883 2233) **Warner** 🅂 (0171-437 4343)

◆ **QUIZ SHOW** (15): Director Robert Redford resurrects a TV scandal of the late 1950s. Fine performances but not enough bite, or relevance.
MGM Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Odeons: Haymarket** (01426 915353) **Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** 🅂 (0171-792 3332) **Warner** 🅂 (0171-437 4343)

◆ **THE RIVER WILD** (12): Criminals imperil a family on their white water rafting holiday. Enjoyable action thriller, with Meryl Streep and Kevin Bacon.
MGM Trocadero 🅂 (0171-434 0031) **Plaza** (0800 888997)

◆ **STARGATE** (PG): Galactic adventures of Kurt Russell and James Spader. Preposterous, derivative but fun; Roland Emmerich directs.
MGM Trocadero 🅂 (0171-434 0031)

THREE COLOURS: RED (15): Kieślowski's compelling film about criss-crossing lives, a majestic climax to his trilogy.
MGM Panton Street (0171-930 0631)

DES JENSON

Attacked by Solzhenitsyn as a dangerous post-modernist, Victor Erofeyev hit back by labelling Solzhenitsyn as "a product kept in a pickling jar"

Idiots of East and West

As London gets ready for an opera based on his story, Russian writer Victor Erofeyev tells Anne McElvoy why we need his anti-hero

Vova is an idiot. Your full-blown, slavering, grunting, food-throwing imbecile. None of your civilised *idiot-savant*, still less the upright holy fool of Russian lore, he is a living punishment visited on the meandering Russian intellectual and his "brand new, perfectly tolerable wife", after some undisclosed problems at work.

What follows in Victor Erofeyev's *Life with an Idiot* is an absurd mixture of humour, gore and grim erotic adventure, a game of raw power played out in a cramped Russian apartment. It is, on one level, a story straight from the absurd school of Soviet everyday life: consider what cruel and unusual punishments the Communist system imposed on intellectuals, and being given an idiot to look after seems eminently reasonable. No wonder the narrator's friends start out by congratulating him on his idiot.

But Erofeyev, who has turned his story into a libretto for an opera by Alfred Schnittke that receives its London premiere this weekend, believes that his anti-hero can hold his own in the West too: "He is an international idiot."

The world premiere three years ago in Amsterdam was greeted with near-rapture. "It meant a lot to me that this opera was embraced outside Russia. One of the main aims of my writing is to get away from the inward-looking, almost ethnographical cast of a lot of Russian writing," he says.

Life with an Idiot was inspired by the celebrations marking Lenin's birthday. "It is the story of intelligence seduced by a crazy idea, of ordinary people taking abnormalities for granted. But it also tells of the irrational urges which lurk beneath the surface in the West as well as the East — the fascination of the strange and our desire to gain power over people who are different from ourselves and whom we fear."

Written in 1980, it went unpublished in Russia, subject to a long-standing official ban on Erofeyev's work. Schnittke heard him read it in Moscow, courtesy of Mikhail Gorbachev's glasnost, and immediately suggested transforming it into an opera, with Erofeyev providing the libretto. "I was flattered but a bit overwhelmed, because I'm not really that musical," says the author.

Erofeyev sprang to attention in Britain two years ago with the publication of *Russian Beauty*, a lyrical account of a provincial prostitute bent on infiltrating Moscow society in the terminal phase of Brezhnev's rule. He has been acclaimed as the heir to the Russian avant-garde and cites Joyce, Kafka and the French existentialists as his influences. But in his exploration of the idea of Russianness, he also stands in the tradition of writer-philosophers like Nikolai Bedayev.

At odds with Moscow's literary elite ever since his student days, he rebelled against the hold of the *Shestdeciatniki* (the "Sixties People", the children of Khrushchev's thaw), and decided "to make a little bomb and create some light", by contributing to the samizdat magazine *Metropol*. Twelve copies hit the streets before the KGB, those most conscientious observers of new writing, impounded it and arrested Erofeyev and his colleagues.

After he refused to recant, the authorities freed him, but avenged themselves on his father, a former French interpreter to Stalin. Erofeyev *père* was recalled from a senior diplomatic post in Vienna to Moscow, where he was punished by being given a desk in the ministry but no job, other than having to read *Pravda* every day. Life with an idiot might almost have seemed preferable.

After that, the only work Erofeyev could get published was written under pseudonyms or as book reviews. Eventually reinstated to the closed shop of the Writers' Union, he managed to get thrown out again for subversion. "Twice within a decade: that was good going, even for Soviet days," he laughs.

Today, he remains hostile to Russia's powerful critical establishment and has fallen foul of the ultimate arbiter of literary taste, Alexander Solzhenitsyn, who implicitly attacked him as a destroyer of tradition and a dangerous post-modernist. He has hit back by describing Solzhenitsyn as "a product kept in a pickling jar".

> ❛We find that Western liberty does not nourish us as we hoped❜

"There is a big fight in Russian letters now," says Erofeyev. "The accepted view is that man is good and that conditions ruin him. This is the core value of the 19th-century novels and also of the classic dissident literature — Ivan Denisovitch remains a good man in spite of the camps. But I prefer the approach of Varlam Shamalov to the Gulag. He took the view that if you put man through hell, he responds by becoming an animal. It is humanity, not ideology, that is responsible for our suffering. After all, man created Communism and the camps, not the other way round."

He has edited a collection of new writing (to appear in Penguin), including Shamalov and the Brett Easton Ellis of the new Russia, Vladimir Sorokhin. "I implore Westerners to read it. I have the impression here that you too have obediently accepted the prescriptions of the Sixties generation and think that our writing stopped with Pasternak and Solzhenitsyn."

A second novel, *The Last Judgment*, is also making its way into English translation. Its scope is far wider than *Russian Beauty*, although it shares the same dynamic of high comedy and high seriousness, propelled by a strong erotic momentum, and examines the disappointments of post-Communist Russia's relations with the West. "In a way, it is Russia which created the myth of the free world," says Erofeyev. "But now we find that Western liberty does not nourish us as we hoped."

One of Erofeyev's abiding obsessions is the Russian sense of time. "The inability to differentiate past from present and to draw conclusions from what has happened is one of the main factors that separates us from the West," he says.

In his programme about literature on Russian television, he is renowned for exploring politely ignored themes, like the fate of the once omnipotent socialist realist writers. "I went to see a man called Simeon Babayevsky, a favourite of Stalin, who wrote fantastically stupid books about the joys of the Kolkhoz. He told me that in those days, he had so many friends you couldn't have fitted them into a huge Moscow restaurant. But not a single soul had been to see him for years, not even to ask him to account for himself. That is why we cannot understand ourselves in Russia. We reject what happened, but even today we don't want to understand it."

● Life with an Idiot *opens on Saturday at the Coliseum (0171-632 8300). There will be further performances, by Scottish Opera, in Glasgow in May*

ENTERTAINMENTS

ART GALLERIES

MISTRAL GALLERY, 10 Dover St, London W1 ARTHUR EASTON R.O.I. One man exhibition. Until 30 April. Tel: 0171 499 4701/2 Mon-Fri 10-6, Sat 10-4

PERCY JOWETT "Wonderful Water Colours". Last 3 Days. Michael Parkin Gallery, 11 Motcomb Street, SW1 071 235 8144

OPERA & BALLET

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ROYAL OPERA HOUSE 304 4000 for Box Off & Standby info. Tickets avail on the day The Royal Opera Ton't, Fri 8.00 SALOME Sat 4.00, Tue 5.30 (Last Night) SIEGFRIED The Royal Ballet Tomor 7.30 (First Night) STRAVINSKY STAGED

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ALDWYCH cc 0171 416 6003 0171 497 9977 (no fee) Evgs 7.30, Mats Wed & Sat 3.0 FELICITY KENDAL MARGARET TYZACK & ART MALIK in INDIAN INK "TOM STOPPARDS TRIUMPH - A BEAUTIFUL AND FUNNY FIREBALL OF A PLAY TO ILLUMINATE THE WEST END" Today. Directed by PETER WOOD

APOLLO VICTORIA cc 0171 416 6043 cc 24hrs 0171 344 4444/0171 497 9977 Grps 0171 416 6075/ 413 3321 Andrew Lloyd Webber's New production of STARLIGHT EXPRESS "A REBORN THEATRICAL DELIGHT" Daily Mail White knuckle runs 19.45 daily Tue & Sat 15.00 Tickets from £12.50

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WHITEHALL 0171 369 1735 or 0171 344 4444 'A THRILLER WITH AN INGENIOUS TWIST' E.Std Keith Baxter Jean Boht Gayle Hunnicutt Susan Penhaligon Christopher Timothy in DANGEROUS CORNER by JB Priestley 'PACKS A THRILLING THEATRICAL PUNCH' D.Tel Eves 8pm, Mats Wed 3pm, Sat 5pm UNTIL 6 MAY

WYNDHAMS 0171 369 1746 cc (no bkg fee) 0171 344 4444 JULIET STEVENSON "Is truly madly deeply impressive" Sunday Express SIMON RUSSELL BEALE ROBERT GLENISTER THE DUCHESS OF MALFI by John Webster Eves 7.30 Mats Wed & Sat 3.00 Opens 25 April

مكتب الاهرام

Holding back the Hollywood tide

Subsidies and inducements may be the British way of getting a slice of the film industry pie

Neat timing. Just as one billion people around the world watch the Academy Awards from Los Angeles, the European Commission tries to break the Hollywood habit.

It is a lost cause. The world is addicted to Hollywood movies. Somehow, in the early days of the cinema, Russian Jews finding their way their way to southern California perfected a recipe for using moving pictures to tell a story with economy, style and pace.

Other cultures make excellent films too, but not with the same universal appeal.

So how can other countries stem the American tide? The fact that the European Commission has chosen the wrong way — quotas — does not mean that the struggle is not worth making. Films are the most popular form of public entertainment. The world market cannot be abandoned to Hollywood.

So how to spur the European film and television industries to counterattack? The French have no doubt. They have succeeded in getting the Commission to approve the tightening up of the requirement that half of everything shown on European television should be European-made (for the next ten years). Britain has pronounced itself "disappointed" at the decision which, if passed by the Council of Ministers next month, would remove the loophole that allowed countries to comply only "where practicable".

For quotas are rigid and easily outwitted. Besides, there simply is not enough popular television available for all the channels there are. Most European countries do like their own programmes best. But the well-made and cheap American shows are strong second favourites. This month the strongly free-trade *Economist* wickedly mustered statistics to show how much people in all the main European countries love the American *Baywatch* — and that, proportionately, the French love it most of all. In France in 1994, *Baywatch* drew 4.5 million viewers against 9.9 million for the top-ranking series, *Les yeux d'Hélene*. In Britain *Baywatch* drew 7.9 million to *Coronation Street*'s 17.9 million.

It is easy to sneer at French protectionism if your own language is not under threat. Not so easy, however, to devise ways to encourage foreign investors to bring their money to help your own audiovisual industry. On Tuesday, Mr Gerald Kaufman and his Commons Select Committee on the National Heritage will issue their long-awaited report on what Britain should do.

BRENDA MADDOX

The Kaufman committee took itself all the way to Hollywood in search of the facts of life of film investment. Their report, however, will show that they need have gone no further than Dublin.

The Republic of Ireland recently began offering tax breaks which effectively give film-makers 10 to 15 per cent of their budget back. The result, according to research by the British Film Commission, is that investment in film production in the Irish Republic rose from a scant £1 million in 1992 to £100 million in 1994. Australia and Canada, too, offer attractive combinations of tax incentives and subsidy.

Even within the United States, the states are mastering the techniques of wooing film-makers away from California. State film development commissions not only offer tax incentives but also help outside producers to deal with all kinds of problems, from employment regulations to stopping traffic.

The Kaufman committee may recommend that the British Film Commission play some such active co-ordinating function for foreign film-makers. It may also recommend that borrowing be made easier. Yet there is no guarantee that the Heritage Secretary, Stephen Dorrell, no Action Man, will approve the inducements and pass them on to the Treasury, or that the Treasury will approve.

A strong body of free-market purists believes thatall forms of industrial assistance are enervating and bad. The British music industry, with no fiscal props at all, thrives and competes with America.

But films are not like records. The production risk for each project is much greater. Anway, if there is little objection to the incentives Britain offers to foreign electronics and car manufacturers, why deny similar inducements to the film industry? Cultural subsidies are not a sin — except to those who would abolish public libraries on the ground that anybody who wants to read the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* should buy it.

What is a "British" film is a ludicrous question. It is the same as a "British" book. Not the subject, nor the origin of the money. The "British" ingredient consists of skills and traditions which are not American, and which have proven their appeal in the world market.

Noel's big business party

JAMES MORGAN

'I have to accept the fact that I'm getting older . . . and that I have ambitions'

Undeterred by recent blips, the Noel Edmonds empire is expanding, reports

Alexandra Frean

If the British Academy for Film and Television Arts were to give a prize at its awards ceremony this month for the television celebrity with the most carefully cultivated image, it would surely go to Noel Edmonds.

After six months of relentless media criticism, focusing on a string of business difficulties and the alleged decline in popularity of *Noel's House Party*, his flagship television show, Edmonds is staying calm. He even displays a cheery determination to carry on, and to expand his entertainment and business interests.

Despite the forced closure in December of his theme park in Morecambe and a falling-out with Lancaster City Council, his partner in the venture, and despite a planning blunder at the theme park in Somerset in which he has an interest, Edmonds plans to open similar attractions.

The first, a Crinkley Bottom stage show based on his TV show, is about to open at the Pleasurewood Hills family entertainment venue between Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft in East Anglia. Edmonds describes the show, which uses video images of himself as well as actors, as a kind of "21st-century pantomime".

He says: "We hope soon to be announcing two more venues, with which we are linking. One is an all-day family venue, themed on intellectual properties. The other includes catering. Our ambitions are to move into restaurants and hotels, all with family themes — what is called entertainment catering. One thing we don't want to do is to stray too far from our experience base."

By the end of the year, he hopes to announce details of a new themed venue in Scotland. Within two years, there could be a chain of 20 to 25 "entertainment catering" outlets, all based on Mr Blobby, his pink latex sidekick, and on *House Party*. "Entertainment catering is where you go to have fun as you eat and drink," Edmonds says. "It's underexploited and it is an area we want to plug."

Some commentators have heaped scorn on Edmonds for his tendency to lapse into marketing-speak in this way. His refusal to accept the "magic" of showbusiness, and his determination to see it instead in more mercenary terms as an excellent marketing opportunity for himself, his Mr Blobby products — which he shares in a 50-50 deal with the BBC — and his theme parks, is also a constant irritant to many in the media.

Edmonds says that such flak is merely part of the "rules of engagement" and something he has to endure. He adds, however, with a tinge of *amour propre*, that one of his ambitions is to be "regarded as somebody".

No doubt it is largely because of his fiercely businesslike approach to the entertainment industry that Edmonds has lasted so long, while others have faded. It also helps to explain how he successfully made the transition from Radio 1 presenter to TV celebrity and business entrepreneur.

If Edmonds's first big career break came when he joined Radio 1 in 1969, his second boost came in 1983 when he decided to leave. He comments: "When I have seen over the past two years people who are hurt about being no longer wanted at Radio 1, I just think to myself, well it was bound to happen to them one day, so why didn't they engineer it on their own terms?"

Mr Blobby: intellectual property potential

On television, Edmonds is the ultimate engineer and an adept technician, capable of tweaking the well-worn formulae of his shows when they become tired. He takes as much pleasure in production as in performing and says he would be equally happy running a nuts-and-bolts factory.

Edmonds has no illusions that his TV career will last for ever. His main show, *Noel's House Party*, with its studiously rehearsed slapstick humour, schoolboy pranks and bucketloads of goo poured over people's heads is not every armchair critic's cup of tea. Yet, after nearly 90 shows, *House Party* (which finished its latest run last Saturday) is still regularly seen by 12 million people and it has been one of BBC1's most effective weapons in the ratings battle against ITV.

Edmonds admits, however, that his current contract with the BBC to do the show, which expires in spring 1997, may well be his last. "I have to accept the fact that I'm getting older and that I have ambitions," he says. "To me, television has never been the most important thing in my life, so it's very easy for me to imagine that if I got tired of it, I would opt out."

Meanwhile, Edmonds is building up his business interests. As well as his theme parks-cum-restaurant ventures and the independent radio production company he part-owns, he has just signed a deal with the BBC to make a 13-part Mr Blobby cartoon television series. And he plans to expand into the animation business.

The key to his business approach so far has been to use the creative input and media profile in ventures with partners, who have been mainly responsible for making the necessary capital investment and running the business — an approach that went badly wrong in Morecambe.

Edmonds's biggest challenge now will be to find other business partners, such as the BBC, with whom he can work and who share his vision of England as a family-friendly land dotted with pink Blobby eateries and lashings of multicoloured goo.

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Marco Pierre White, from the safety of Table 3.

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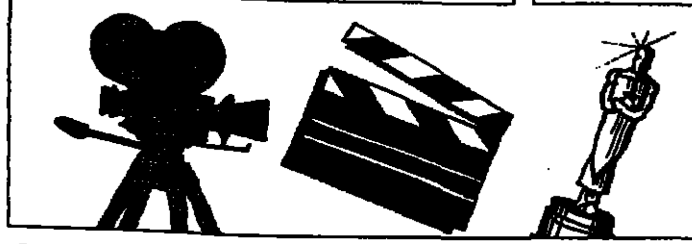

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For sustained growth and maximum exposure you need fast & accurate typing (60wpm) together with an excellent grounding in a windows environment. Teamed with your flexible and mature approach we can then provide you with the sustenance you will need to flourish:

- A well established client base offering long and short term bookings
- Excellent hourly rates
- A professional and cultivated service from our team of seasoned temporary controllers.

Ring us now to join the team 0171 434 4512
West End

Crone Corkill
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

SMG, a world leader in the management of arenas, stadia, convention centres and theatres, has an excellent opportunity available at the London Arena.

You will be responsible for providing secretarial and administrative support to the General Manager.

To qualify, you should have a minimum of 2 years secretarial/administrative experience. Experience performing at a managerial or higher level preferred. Excellent communication skills along with the ability to maintain confidential information required. Excellent word processing skills required (Word Perfect, Lotus 1-2-3 preferred).

We offer a competitive benefit and salary package. Interested candidates should send CV and include salary requirements to:

Katie Harding
London Arena
Limeharbour
London E14 9TH
(no phone calls pls)

LONDON ARENA

Devonshire Appointments

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Our Client Base:
The corporate arena where your individuality will be rewarded. Major Banks and Management Consultancies, *City* and West End.

The Vacancies:
We need people with initiative who seek a high profile, as our clients always require that something extra; strong administrators, superb liaison and communication skills and GRAPHICS ability.

Word for Windows, VENTURA, Pagemaker, Quark Xpress, Freelance for Windows, Powerpoint, Persuasion, Macdraw, Excel.
Fluency in Italian or French preferable.

£££££
Temporary rates £9.00 - £11.00 per hour. Permanent Salaries of £16,500 upwards + bonuses + excellent benefits.

Call Madelaine Nolan, Victoria Sutton, Amanda White
Tel: 0171 895 8050 Fax: 0171 623 2998
Devonshire Appointments Ltd,
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(i) To work at Partner Level in our property department. We are seeking a candidate with good audio and WP skills, willingness and a sense of humour.

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Please apply with C.V. to: Sylvia Shaw, Personnel/Administration Manager, Goodman Derrick, 90 Fetter Lane, EC4A 1EQ

PA TO DEPUTY DIRECTOR - ADMINISTRATION

A self-motivated PA needed as right hand support for a member of the Directorate of a leading high profile *trade association in W2.*

Good keyboard knowledge (WP5.1) and shorthand skills required with a flair for organising events. Possibly suit graduate. Salary c. £17,500

Written application with full CV - no later than 7.4.95 to BOX No. 5021 c/o The Times Newspapers
P.O. Box 484, Virginia St, London E1 9DD
No Agencies

JUGGLE IN ADVERTISING
£20,000

Dynamic Creative Director req your organisational flair to arrange and monitor events and conferences. This is a true right-hand position which req commitment & the ability to juggle many projects. Skills 80wpm s/h, 60wpm typing ess. Applemac or W4W and Excel also ess.

Call Dawn on
0171 220 7575
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TRAINEE TEMPS CONTROLLER
£15,500 + BONUS

We are looking for a well educated, committed and confident addition to our team. Your dual position will be providing sec/admin support, but primarily you will be trained into the demanding role of temps controller. You should be able to demonstrate a mature, responsible attitude and have a confident and strong personality. Only the career minded need apply!

Call Verity Appointments
Tel: 0171 344 9710
Fax: 0171 493 0467

PA/ SECRETARY

A confident, well organised senior *secretary is required for* a busy private property & building company. An eye for detail and the ability to work both as part of a team and under pressure are essential.

Please send CV, stating current salary, to:

Romulus Construction Ltd,
Sandford House,
10 Maynard Close,
Kings Rd,
London SW6 2DB.

All Box number replies *should be addressed* to:

BOX No:- .....
C/o The Times Newspapers
P.O. BOX 3553,
Virginia Street,
London E1 9GA

ENGLISH HERITAGE

On behalf of English Heritage, the Government conservation body, we are recruiting a PA secretary to work for the Marketing Development Director. Whilst being willing and able to offer total support, you will also require self-motivation and good organisational skills as the workload can be variable. If you have an interest in working in a busy environment and contributing to the preservation of beautiful sights and buildings in England then this job will appeal. You will need Wordperfect 5.1 and a min of 80 wpm s/h. Lotus 123 is useful.

Call Greythorn on
0171 831 9999
to arrange an interview
(Rec Cons)

GREYTHORN

FRIENDS OF THE V&A
EVENTS COORDINATOR

Highly organised, flexible person with proven PR and secretarial skills. 25yrs+ to administer lively Events and Fundraising Programme. Good knowledge of office procedures and W.W. 6.0 intro £14,000. Applications in writing to: Mrs Ginny Ibbott, Friends of the V&A, Victoria and Albert Museum, SW7 2RL not later than 5 April
Registered Charity No.272056

A TRUE PA!
£24,000 neg

This is a great opputunity to assist the dynamic young (mid 30's) senior partner of an American law firm in the City. He specialises in newly developing oil fields and the position requires some overseas travel. *An oil/law or commercial legal background* would be useful and fast WP skills (70+wpm) are essential. If you love a challenge and are prepared to commit yourself, call

071 377 2666

SECRETARIES PLUS
The Secretarial Consultants

Secretary to Managing Director

£competitive + benefits EC3

Lloyd's of London is seeking to recruit a Senior Secretary to this high-profile role providing a comprehensive secretarial/administrative service to the Managing Director of the Central Services Unit.

Candidates should have a good all-round education with excellent communication and presentation skills. The role calls for at least three years' experience at senior level, including excellent shorthand, audio and copy typing skills together with a solid understanding of AmiPro, Lotus 123 and Freelance Graphics. A flexible and well-organised approach should be complemented by a pleasant telephone manner and the assurance to deal effectively with people at all levels within the organisation.

A competitive salary, according to experience, will be supported by a full range of company benefits.

Initially, please apply in writing, enclosing a full CV and details of current remuneration, to: Alec Swan, Human Resources Adviser, Lloyd's of London, 1 Lime Street, London EC3M 7HA, to be received no later than 14th April, 1995. Please quote reference AGS/MD.

LLOYD'S
LLOYD'S OF LONDON

Bell *Cablemedia*, the third largest cable TV and telephone operator in the UK are licensed to provide services to over 1.8 million homes. As part of our continued growth, we are now looking to recruit a:

Secretary to the Chief Executive Officer

Based in Central Watford

c£15,500 + Benefits + Free Parking

A well organised and efficient individual is needed to offer full secretarial support to the Chief Executive Officer. Together with the usual skills this type of role requires, it will also include diary management, travel arrangements and screening calls.

Candidates must have excellent shorthand and word processing skills (100/60). Smart appearance is imperative together with the ability to act as a team player. You should be able to prioritise a heavy work load, work under pressure and communicate at all levels.

Please apply in writing with full CV, stating reference number 482/G/E06, no later than Tuesday 4th April 1995, to:

Michelle Quinn, Human Resources Assistant,

Bell Cablemedia plc

Bell *Cablemedia* House, Upton Road, Watford, WD1 7EL.
NO AGENCIES

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ASSOCIATES
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PA/SECRETARY
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£21,000 PER ANNUM

Large private organisation with wide ranging property / finance interests in the UK and Overseas in prestigious offices, wishes to appoint a high calibre person for Director. Wide ranging responsibilities, good communication skills & presentation are prerequisite qualities for this important appointment. Good secretarial skills, WP5.1 & shorthand are essential. The appointment would suit a mature person with enthusiasm.

Please *write*, enclosing CV, to: *Simon Doyle*, 2-6 *Catherine* Place, Westminster, London, SW1A 9DA

TOP KNOTCH ROLE

Receptionist/Telephonist

c£11,000

If variety is important to you, then this busy and unusual role could be for you. Dealing with clients *face to face*, a busy switchboard, *booking couriers* and lots more. You will be part of a team of four, based at two city locations. If you are calm and professional, have an excellent telephone manner and are flexible, this opportunity could be for you. In return we offer excellent benefits.

Please send your curriculum vitae to:
Mrs Y Shaw, Windsor PLC,
160-166 Borough High Street,
London SE1 1JR

TO ADVERTISE
CALL: 0171 481 9994

LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

FAX:
0171 481 9313

PA/OFFICE MANAGER

Required for small, but long established, South Kensington strategy consultancy. Candidate should have confident telephone manner, good organisation skills, excellent knowledge of Microsoft Office (Word for Windows, Powerpoint, Excel). PA to MD and support to 3 directors; general office admin, liaise with financial controller. Sense of humour - as well as overall competence - a must!! Salary £16K+ negotiable, depending on experience.

Please send CV to:
The Managing Director,
PBD Ltd,
70 Old Brompton Road,
London SW7 3LQ

Contemplating your future?

Hot Property!

£15,000

Our client, a prestigious and very hard working property company in the heart of the capital, is seeking an outgoing and reliable secretary to join their dynamic team. You will be involved in typing correspondence, preparing particulars and all other regular secretarial duties. A fantastic role for someone looking for that first step onto the career ladder. Typing 45wpm. Shorthand desirable.

Recruitment

£16,000

Does the sound of an involving and busy role within a dynamic and interesting recruitment environment catch your attention? Are you an intelligent, hard working secretary with excellent skills looking for something a little different? One of London's leading specialist recruitment consultancies is looking for a "one in a million" team player to support two consultants. An excellent telephone manner and positive attitude essential. Typing 50wpm.

Gordon Yates recruits on the basis of merit and equal opportunity. Please call 0171-493 5787 today or fax us on 0171-493 7654.

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£16,000
(c £18,000 Pkg)

Management Consultants whose names is synonymous with excellence requires support for two Managers in a very high profile department. They need a highly motivated secretary who works to the highest of standards. They offer in return unrivalled training incl the latest software and a superb working environment. You should be well-educated (minimum 5 "O" levels inc Maths & Eng) with a formal secretarial training (6mths min). Age 22+.

Call Rachel on 0171 636 1493

BEAVERS
Personnel Recruitment Consultants

PA/OFFICE MANAGER
W1, To £19,000

As well as providing first rate secretarial support for two partners in this upmarket property co. you will be given full responsibility for the smooth running of the office, including supervision of three other secretaries. Your bosses have high standards and will be relying on you to take the lead and make sure these are being upheld. Property experience and good knowledge of W4W a distinct advantage. Age 28+.

Call Rachel on 0171 636 1493

BEAVERS
Personnel Recruitment Consultants

MAYFAIR
Executive Secretary/ Office Manager

London subsidary of expanding Project Finance Group requires a self-motivated person who can display initiative with excellent organisational and secretarial skills including Microsoft Office.

Significant upside potential in both renumeration and career development.

Salary to £17,500 neg. depending upon experience.

Please foward CVs to:
Fima Ltd, 74 South Audley St, London W1Y 5FF
or Fax 0171 409 3098

OFFICE MANAGER/PA

to Chairman and consultants for expanding retail consultancy Holborn. The role encompasses a broad range of administrative responsibilities in an office of 20. Must have WP5.2, Freelance + Lotus are desirable for presentations/reports 70 wpm. Ability to work on own initiative/meet deadlines essential. Late 20s. Salary aae.

Fax CV to Personnel Manager, Verdict Research
Fax No: 0171 430 0059
(No agencies)

LETTINGS NEGOTIATOR
required for busy West Kensington office.

The sucessful candidate will be professional and enthusiastic with management potential. Must have at least one year's experience, be dedicated, versatile and enjoy working as part of a team. Excellent prospects within this challenging, independent firm.

Good package and car.
Please send your CV to: Kate Cheshire
135 Hammersmith Rd, West kensington, London W14 0QL

WEST END CHARTERED SURVEYORS

Intelligent, hard working and enthusiastic Secretary required for Director in this busy office. Good organiser with fast accurate audio typing (MS Word 6 exp.)
Salary c£15,000 plus excellent benefits
Write with CV to: Miss JM Templeman
Fletcher King, Stratton House,
Stratton Street, London W1X 5FE.
Fax: 0171 493 8400
NO AGENCIES

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Palme D'Or

Do you have what it takes to join Crone Corkill Multilingual's International Hall of Fame? Of course you do! YOU know you have the talent, drive and ambition it takes to achieve international success but do you know where the immediate openings are? WE do! Not only do we currently have opportunities throughout London, but in Paris and Frankfurt too. If you are a star in the making (i.e. min. 6 months' experience as a trained secretary, 50wpm typing, good WP skills, and fluency in any ONE foreign language) then we are the agents for you! Call Sabina, Jennifer, Elisabeth or Gabrielle on 0171 434-4512 for an immediate audition.

Crone Corkill
Multilingual

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FRENCH EXEC PA £22K plus B Bens
Biling French Exec PA to No2 in prestig Euro Bank. True Assts role with ltd sec content for 'go-getter'. Lots Corp entertain/function org - so people person ess. Gd PC/typ plus slm City exp ess. 25-35.
GERMAN EXEC PA £22K plus Excl Bens
New Bd Dir of intl bank req top Ger PA - prev city exp ess. SH ess (Ger or Eng). Hectic new post - exc opp to develop role. 25-40.
TRADE IN YOUR FRENCH £17K plus B Bens
Energetic self starter French sec (Eng m/t) for busy trading fir Mngr. Flexible/keen team player & gd typ/PC skills ess. 24 plus.
GERMAN CUSTOMER CARE to £19K plus Bens
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PS.. French 2nd Jobber secs (Eng MT ess) URGENTLY req £15-17K - Ger/Spa Translator - Ita/Ger Media Sec £14.5K & more.
Tel: 0171 930 1811 Fax: 0171 925 0056
Carrara Hse, 20 Embankment Place, London, WC2N 6NN. (agy)

International Group Based In Brussels Seeks FLUENT FRENCH (English Mother Tongue) EXPERIENCED EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Must be able to work under pressure and on own initiative. You will have 10-15 years experience as an Executive Secretary. Excellent secretarial and organisational skills required to deal with interests on a worldwide basis. Must be adaptable. Must be willing to relocate as travel is required. Excellent terms.

Send CV to Ref LO, 13/15 Davies St, London W1Y 2HQ

BILINGUAL German Sec/Admin for Sales Div of major Int Co. Varied role dealing with clients, translations and general correspondence. £16.5K+. Language Recruitment 0171 287 0424

FRENCH spkg PA w/powerpoint. beautiful offices W1. Link Lang Appts. 071.379.0333

BILINGUAL German/Spanish Translator for Surrey Co £excl. Suit car owner. Language Recruitment 0171 287 0424

EUROPEAN lang. commercial assistant for MD. exp in high tech co. ess. c£20k Link Lang Appts. 071.379.0333

ANDERSON HOARE
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£23,000

Combine your good shorthand & typing with your experience in fundraising. This prestigious institution is looking for someone who can juggle a busy working day, that will include organising the Director, taking minutes of important meetings and being on the frontline raising donations. Skills must include 90/60, wordperfect and know. of fundraising. Age 25-40.

8A SYMONS STREET, SLOANE SQUARE, LONDON SW3 2TJ
TEL: 0171-824 8821 FAX: 0171-824 8827

SHEILA CHILDS RECRUITMENT

£18k - Going to market?

International company in SW1 needs bright, bubbly but diplomatic secretary for busy marketing department - aged 28-35. Speeds 100/60.

£17k - What's in store?

can you accept the challenge of an exciting and fast moving secretarial role in Buying with a major stores group. If so, what are you waiting for? Aged 21-30. Speeds 90/65.

[illegible]
Telephone: 0171 487 3111 Fax: 0171 487 4050

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Secretary Sales & Service

Boehringer - a leading german mechanical engineering company of the IWKA-Group requires an experienced "allround"-secretary for the Sales-Office Boehringer Limited in Brackley/Northamptonshire.

The successful candidate is looking for a job, where she can work on her own initiative - co-ordinating all activities between our clients in UK and the main company in Germany - perfect in preparing reports and accounts, secretarial skills, as a part of a small, dynamic team! German language desirable.

Please send letter and CV to

BOEHRINGER
WERKZEUGMASCHINEN GMBH
Stuttgarter Str. 50, D-73033 Göppingen
Personalabteilung Herr Straub

MULTI-LINGUAL OPPORTUNITIES

THE CONSULTANCY FOR ALL LANGUAGE APPOINTMENTS

BILINGUAL SECRETARIES

WEST & NW LONDON, SURREY, MIDDLESEX, BUCKS, BERKS, HERTS & KENT

If you would like to work in any of these areas, then we should like very much to hear from you.

CALL EURO LONDON APPOINTMENTS
Tel 0171-583 0180 / Fax 0171-353 9849
HARE PLACE, 47 FLEET STREET, LONDON EC4

FRANKFURT: biling German /English sec. legal co. c28K + bens + 6 wks hols Link Lang Appts. 071.379.0333

FRENCH/ Powerpoint: Friendly consultancy in West End has a new position for a second thorough knowledge of WP/DTP (especially Powerpoint). Duties involve PA work for a senior consultant and the preparation of presentation material. Age 23-28. Salary £16,000 + paid o/t. Pls call Elisabeth Christ on 0171 434 4512. Crone Corkill Multilingual Rec. Cons.

FRENCH speaking secretary with audio skills for Int'l solicitors based in the City. Ideal temp to perm. Fluent written & spoken French essential. Wordperfect 5.1 advantageous. Typing 60 wpm. Call Manuela at Boyce Bilingual 0171 287 6060.

FRENCH: Sales Office Administrator /Secretary for W London Co. Commercial acumen. 50 wpm typ. excl Engl & fluent French. £17K. 0171 836 3794 Multilingual Services rec cons

FRENCH bil sec to Marketing Mgr of Middx co. Involved & challenging post for sec with 2 yrs exp. To £14,850 + bens. The Language Specialists. Merrow Agy 0171 499 3939

GERMAN: Speaking Admin Secretary required for this well known Int'l bank. This role could ideally suit an English M/T Secretary with 9 months previous experience. There is a high admin and organisational content, lots of Int'l liaison and plenty to learn. Salary £14,000 + all banking benefits. Appointments Bi-Language 0171 355 1978/0171 734 3380. Fax 0171 499 0568.

GERMAN spkg snr PA/Sec. min 3 yrs exp. c20K + pkge Link Lang Appts. 071.379.0333

ITALIAN Top City firm is launching an Italian Desk and needs a bilingual secretary to help liaise extensively with Italian clients by phone & correspondence. Understanding of Italian business etiquette essential. Fast typing (60wpm), age 24-32. Salary £18,800. Please call Sabina on 0171 434 4512

ITALIAN speaking sec for media co. Exciting opp for sec with 1 yrs exp. No SH! Age 23-33. £14,500 + bens 0171 499 3939 The Language Specialists. Merrow Agy 0171 499 3939

ITALIAN/Spanish Sec for Export Dept of famous Fabric/Int design Co. Min 6 mo exp. 80+ wpm & W4W. Call 0171 287 2044/fax 0171 287 5717. Middleton Jeffers Rec Ltd

MARSEILLES: Pressured IT Sales Director looking for confident, superbly organised PA (US style) English mother tongue with excellent French. WP skills, 55 wpm min. Work hard, play hard!, 25+. Salary neg aae. Call SBI Rec Cons on 0171 584 1824

POLISH Secretary. (fluent written & spoken) for busy West End Corporate Finance Co. Must be computer literate. 60wpm typing. Salary/hours negotiable. Fax CV to 0171 636 1657 (Miss R.Braun).

RUSSIAN speaking senior sec/coordinator urgently sought to help two Managing Directors set up and run an exciting new international operation in W/End. This is a vital role, requiring initiative and ability to work unsupervised as they both travel extensively. Solid secretarial experience and excellent skills inc. MS Word for Windows and Excel are essential together with fluent Russian. Age 26+. Salary £18,000. Pls call Jennifer Ross on 0171 434 4512. Crone Corkill Multilingual Rec. Cons.

RUSSIAN spkg administrator. Involved, responsible role c25K Link Lang Appts. 071.379.0333

TRANSLATOR German/ Spanish for Intl plc. 2 yrs min relevant exp. Excl sal + bens. The Language Specialists. Merrow Agy 0171 499 3939

SUPER SECRETARIES

COSMETIC HOUSE
£12-14,000

A fun, enthusiastic sec has a chance to work for a great boss, the Area Sales Manager & his team. Based in the U.K. and International products dept of this young company. There will be lots of variety & organising of travel, meetings etc & liaising with consultants over the phone. Typing is all copy and requires 50 wpm and some W4W/Excel5 exp. If you have French & S/H you may have a chance to use it if you wanted, not otherwise required.

Call Anderson Hoare (Rec Cons) on 0171 824 8821.

LOVE PROPERTY?
£13-17,000

We have a variety of brilliant secretarial jobs for some of London's best known property companies. Positions range from college leaver to experienced secretarial level. If you are well presented and want to go to work and have fun at the same time then this is an opportunity that can't be refused. 50wpm/W4W.

Call Anderson Hoare Rec on 0171 824 8821

ADMIN/Audio Chelsea £17,000 50% PA/Admin duties. late 20s. W4W, good ed & v.good sense of humour vital in happy office close Sl Sq. Call 0171 287 2044/fax 287 5717 Middleton Jeffers Rec Ltd

A PA to MD 21k Intl Distributors. Busy offices SH/WP 100/60 0181 209 1858 Agy

ANDERSON HOARE
CHELSEA P.A.
£18-20,000

This private house, converted into fabulous offices has a 'one off' opportunity for a very friendly, highly organised P.A. to the Treasury Manager. Confidence in day to day dealings with banks, creditors, auditors, invoices, office machinery, personnel and staff parties are all an asset. Min amount of secretarial approx 30% of your day but must have 80/60 WP.6 and Lotus adv.

8A SYMONS STREET, SLOANE SQUARE, LONDON SW3 2TJ
TEL: 0171-824 8821 FAX: 0171-824 8827

ORGANISATIONAL FLAIR
£16,500 + BENS

Join one of the big 6 Accountants who offer an unbelievable benefits package. As Sec to the Partner organise diaires, chauffers and couriers in addition to complex meetings and luncheons. A calm and methodical approach is ess. Skills 80wpm SH, 60 wpm typing & W4W. *

Similar opps available £18K SH not req

Call Dawn on
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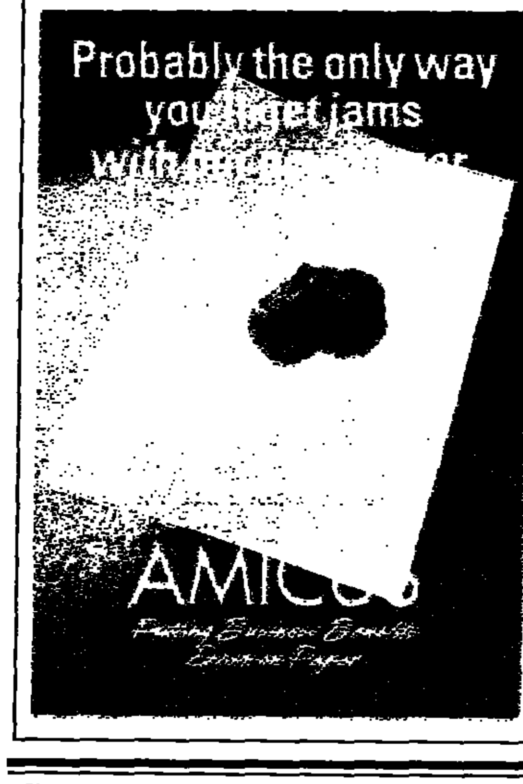
PARTNER'S SECRETARY
£15,000

Snr Partner of prestigious, professional firm requires unflappable Secretary to support him and his small team. Great surroundings, high profile clients and busy role. WP5.1, W4W's + audio essential. Ideal age 26-33 yrs.

Call 0171 377 6777
Middleton Jeffers
RECRUITMENT LIMITED

"Nothing compares to Crème de la Crème for senior level PA positions"

Lyn Cecil - Secretaries Plus



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A Graduate with a sense of humour, good typing and excellent communication skills is urgently required for a busy, City Personnel Department. If you are non-status conscious, willing and flexible call now! To £20,000 + benefits. Pan European Recruitment 0171 734 8484

ARE you looking for a high typing content role with variety & responsibility? Have you got fast, accurate skills (typing 65 wpm+) and the ability to use your initiative? Our client, a renowned name in the property world is seeking a number of highly organised & committed secretaries for their West End & City offices. Professionalism & dedication are essential. Call Gordon Yates Consultants 0171 493 5787

AUDIO Chelsea £17,500. W4W & 60+ wpm & 60% Admin here with 2 v.v. nice bosses in Property. Call 0171 287 2044/fax 287 5717 Middleton Jeffers Rec Ltd

c£16,000 + bens - stunning offices in St James's Park. Combining top designer names with serious players in property, this exciting co appreciates well pres. hard wrkg people who are fun to be with. Young co. Wrkg for 2. typ min 60 wpm + W4W exp. Age 20's. Norma Skemp Rec. 0171 222 5091

CITY SEC c£14k, busy training department require creative person with good Applemac skills. Contact Kim Anthony Cook Bureau (rec cons) on 0171 628 3366

ENTERTAINMENT & Media Law sec req. for "great to work with" Partner. Audio & rusty shnd, wonderful offices with exc £££ + perks. Legal exp ess. Michelle 0171 814 6627 TLP agy

£20,000+ Exp. Litigation Sec (20-30ish) sought by zippy/successful law firm. Wordperfect/City - not to be missed! Michelle - 0171 814 6627 TLP Agy

GENERAL Surgeon, based in Knightsbridge, requires F/T Secretary. Excellent WP skills, good telephone manner and organisation ability essential. Friendly office. £16-£18k neg. Tel: 0171-236 6086.

GRADUATE PA for Business Development Manager of American High-Tech Company. Real opportunity for promotion £13,000. Directors' Secretaries 0171 629 9323.

HARLEY Street Contact lens practice needs secretary/ receptionist. lively personality WP helpful. Tel 0171 631 1046

HUMAN Resources Exec (x2) International co's in NW2 + Hants c£25K - languages an asset. Call EuroLondon Appointments 0171 583 0180 or Fax 0171 353 9849

JUNIOR Elegant Secretary for prestigious Property Company in Kensington. Tel Berkeley International 0171 792 1881

KENSINGTON Audio £16,000. W4W for Team person. early 20s 30% admin rest Audio in upmarket Property Co. Call 0171 287 2044/fax 287 5717 Middleton Jeffers Rec Ltd

£18¾ + M/gage subs + exc bonuses for secretary age 24-32 to work in new sec position for 3x Vice Pres in large US Investment Bank. Mayfair location. Please call King & Toben Recruitment Consultants 0171 629 9648

PA/SECRETARY Salary negotiable. Experienced graduate level PA/Secretary to work for Chief Executive and Finance Director. Highly motivated and able to work under own initiative. The successful candidate will also have an interest in skiing. French/German an advantage, though not essential. Age 25-35 yrs. Please write with CV and details of current salary to Chief Executive, Ski Club of Great Britain, 118 Eaton Square, London SW1W 9AF

PA/Office Manager. We are looking for a graduate who is enthusiastic, well presented, and has initiative to work for 3 Partners in a busy W1 advertising agency. Fast promotion possible. If you have sound secretarial skills (60wpm) and a knowledge of Windows, please ring Julie on 0171 636 5552.

PERSONNEL Director of major stores group needs PA. Skills 100/60. £18,000. Directors' Secretaries 0171 629 9323

PERSONNEL opportunity! Recruitment administrator. 20+ with bright personality & WP skills (WP6.1 ideally) for major City firm £14K 0171 377 2666 Secretaries Plus rec cons

PERSONNEL PA c£20,000+. Great organiser for major City Investment Bank. Busy, varied role. Snr level exp. W4W, s/h 80wpm. Age 28-45. Daimond Agy 0171 929 2977. (City).

PROPERTY Secs (x2) up to £17K - Prestigious W1 property company require 2 secs. Very responsible positions suit applicants with: W4Ws, (50 wpm), style, aplomb, social awareness, & exc diction. Call Liz on 0171 493 4993 Tobias rec cons

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SEC c£19k + mort sub + bens. Well-known ins co. WC1. Gd eye for detail. Dealing with annual results. Windows + s/sheets. Typ 60 wpm. Diamond Agy 0171 929 2977 City

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When applying please quote ref: MP/2188/95/T

SECRETARY/Receptionist - EC1. £14,000 + exc bens. Very much part of the team your varied duties will include secretarial support for two senior Managers, diary work and organising in-house lunches as well as being first point of contact on the phone. This is a lovely opportunity for a second jobber to take on more responsibility in a friendly and supportive environment. Call Rachel on 071 636 1493

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Hours 9am - 5.30pm.

Salary £14,500 pa.

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£18,000

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Keystone (Rec Agy)

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Requires: Senior P.A.
Junior Secretary.
Apply in writing to:
Belgravia Trustees Ltd.
11 Grosvenor Crescent
SW1 7EE ref: T.P.

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TEMPTING TIMES

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(To cover maternity leave)

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0171 355 1955

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Estate Agency Recruitment
0171 938 3868

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Hatton Garden Agency

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Changes Rec Cons
071 [illegible] 1255.

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London NW11 8ED

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RECEPTIONIST

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If you would like to apply please send your current CV to: Paula Adams, Golley Slater & Partners, 42 Drury Lane, London WC2B 5RN.

Closing date for applications Wednesday 5th April 1995

CONTRACT £16,000. Thriving Covent Garden Software firm urgently require an experienced receptionist. Managing the switchboard, meeting and greeting clients, co-ordinating room bookings and some database work. Keyboard skills and a positive and professional attitude are essential. Age 24-32. Please call Kate Hodson on 0171-390 7000. Crone Corkill Rec Cons.

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LEADING Skin care Co expanding in UK requires managers. No exp flex hrs around home & family 0181 682 0039

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0171 498 5243.

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LETTINGS Manager required for our newly refurbished office in Chiswick. Applicants must have experience, able to continue to dominate the local market, ability to create new business and most of all must be able to orchestrate the large portfolio currently being handled. Excellent salary + com + car Call Kieran Ryan at John Spencer on 081 991 8899. All applicants treated in confidence

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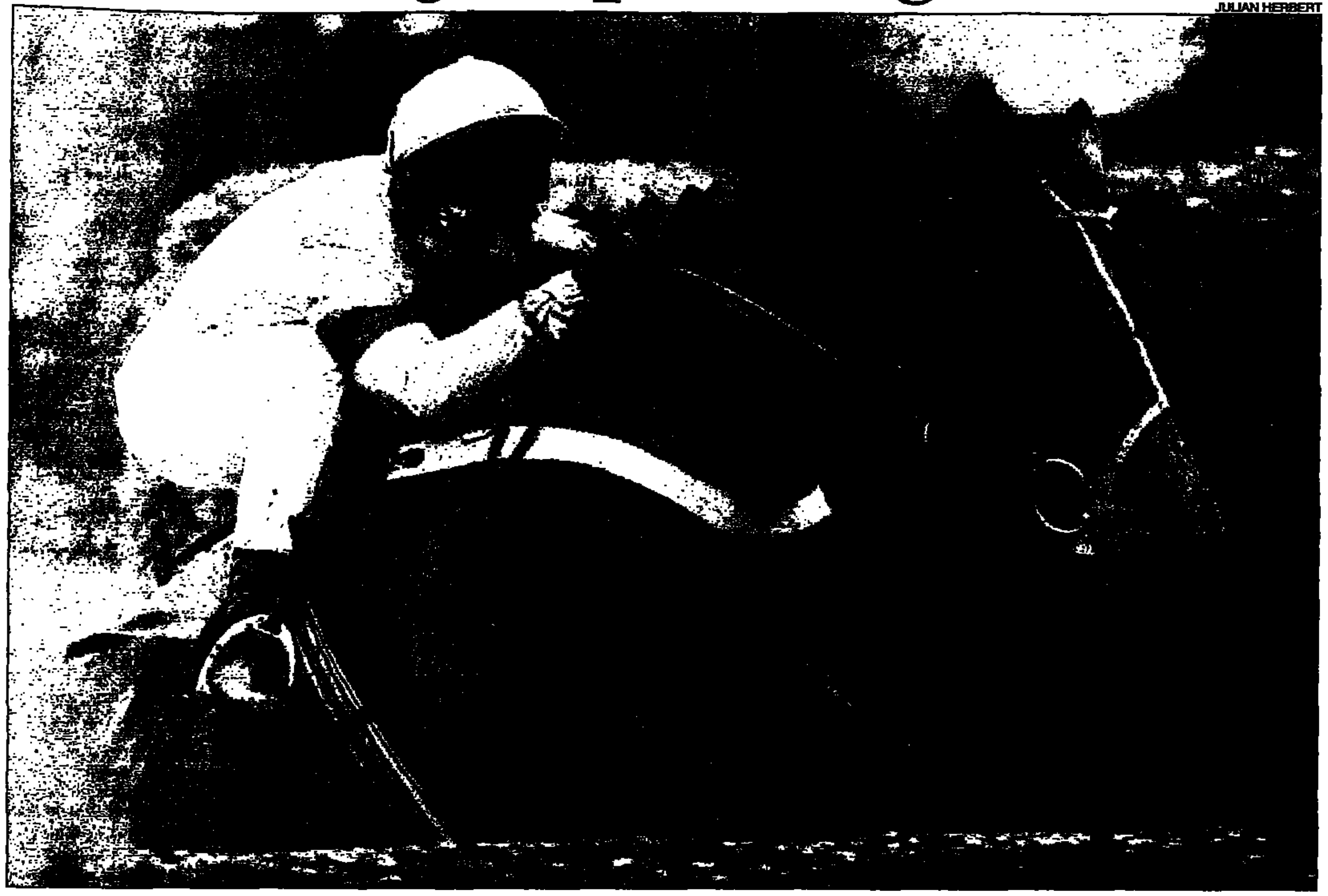
مكنز الاجيال

Cohesive support required to arrest sport's worrying decline

Trainers back jump racing's cause

By Julian Muscat

JULIAN HERBERT



Leotard jumps the last fence safely to initiate a winning novice chase double for his rider, Jamie Osborne, at Sandown yesterday

THE grim realities of National Hunt racing's decline are coming home to roost. Both David Nicholson and Henrietta Knight used the forum provided by the winner's enclosure at Sandown to champion the sport at the expense of Flat racing.

Prompted by the Horserace Betting Levy Board maintaining the 60-40 split in favour of Flat racing, and doubtless by Nottingham's decision to abandon its jumps programme, Nicholson said: "The whole thing is a disgrace. I'd like to see [proof of] the figures, and they shouldn't start knocking out jumping tracks like Nottingham."

Nicholson, the champion National Hunt trainer, quickly warmed to the theme. "I've written to Miles Gosling, chairman of Racecourse Holdings Trust [which owns Nottingham], telling him that Nottingham should not be closed. It is one of the best jumping venues in the country."

As for the Levy Board, Nicholson said: "They should get their act together. It's wrong that all-weather Flat racing should offer more prize-money then a normal jumping fixture. They should make National Hunt racing more viable."

And Knight observed: "I like Flat racing but the money ratio is not right. Racecourses like Kempton and Newbury stop jumping early to prepare for the Flat. And now Nottingham is stopping jumping altogether."

If only to assuage suspicious minds, the Levy Board must now make public the figures governing betting turnover and the proportions generated by the two codes. Many myths have already developed around what jumping folk regard as unfair treatment by the Levy Board.

The latest is that accumulative bets involving Flat and jumps horses are attributed solely to the Flat pool. This assertion was emphatically dismissed yesterday by David Bradshaw, who monitors betting habits at the Levy Board. "Some bookmakers ignore such bets while others apportion the relevant percentage to each pool," he said.

Another supposition for the declining fortunes of jump racing was also laid to rest yesterday when the British Horseracing Board (BHB) published an interim report on the effect of all-weather Flat racing. The code has flourished since its inception six years ago, but the all-weather track review group concluded that the decline in jump racing's fortunes was evident before the start of all-weather racing.

"All-weather racing cannot explain the rapid decline in the number of steeplechasers. Racing must look to other causes," the report stated. That decline indeed has been steep. From a peak of 5,190 jumpers in training in 1988, the numbers have receded by 22 per cent, to 4,030 in 1994.

David Hillyard, managing director of Racecourse Holdings Trust, said of the decision to phase out jump racing at Nottingham: "It is not surprising that jumps trainers are upset. The people who live around Nottingham do not seem to want jump racing in winter but they turn up for Flat racing in summer. I've no doubt there will be a net gain at the end of it."

What is required from the jumping fraternity is a cohesive case for support. This scatter-gun effect is not the answer. Owners and trainers must also reflect on their failure to support the more valuable races outside the Cheltenham Festival. This season, the paucity of competitive events has been as regular as the rain.

Small fields at Sandown did not detract from the spectacle. Jamie Osborne conjured a double from the first two races with Leotard and Oatis Regrets, while Cool Ground, the 1992 Gold Cup winner, defied his 13 years to land the Royal Artillery Gold Cup.

Bradbury Star will miss the remainder of the season after sustaining a leg injury. The ten-year-old's last run came when he fell in the Queen Mother Champion Chase at the Cheltenham Festival. "He had an operation yesterday to remove some chips from a hind joint," his trainer, Josh Gifford, said yesterday.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: ZACAROON
(3.10 Lingfield Park)
Next best: Stop The Waller
(4.00 Worcester)

Osborne to ride Crystal Spirit

JAMIE OSBORNE has been booked to ride Crystal Spirit in the Martell Grand National on Saturday week. The eight-year-old, backed down from odds of 50-1 to 25-1 recently, is reported firmly on course for Aintree but no decision has been made whether he will run at Ascot this Saturday.

He holds an engagement in the Peregrine Handicap Chase at the Berkshire course but his trainer, Ian Balding, said yesterday: "No decision has been made about Ascot — it depends on the state of the ground and how the horse is. He is on course for the National and Jamie Osborne will ride."

Osborne has ridden in the four previous Nationals. Last year he partnered the Jenny Pitman-trained Garrison Savannah, who was leading when brought down by a loose horse at the seventeenth.

Crystal Spirit, who finished runner-up to Monsieur Le Cure in the Mumm Mildmay Novices' Chase at last year's National meeting, won his latest start at Ascot, ridden by Osborne, beating Southolt by five lengths.

CATTERICK

THUNDERER

2.20 Memorable
2.50 Mystique Smile
3.20 Contrafire
3.50 Ganador
4.20 Profit Release
4.50 LITTLE IBNR (nap)

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 3.20 Contrafire. 4.50 Tatika.

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

103 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 .... B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing: J if jumps, F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (7.30AM INSPECTION) SIS
DRAW: 5F-7F, LOW NUMBERS BEST

2.20 YARM HANDICAP (£3,800: 1m 5f 175yd) (8 runners)

101 (2) 33020-0 FOX SPARROW 19J (S) (B Todd) N Tinkler 5-10-0 J Weaver 95
102 (6) 315556- POMORIE 12J (G) (A Penman) J Payne 4-9-4 D Holland 89
103 (5) 336050- MOONLIGHT QUEST 231 (F,G,S) (B Hanbury) B Hanbury 7-9-4 M Rimmer 89
104 (4) 11000-0 CUTTHROAT KID 6 (V,C,F,G,S) (P Savill) Mrs M Reveley 5-9-4 K Darley 90
105 (8) 4-161 SHAKIYR 56 (G) (L & R Roadlines) R Hollinshead 4-8-13 W Ryan 98
106 (3) 1210-00 NEW INN 35 (V,C,G,S) (Mrs C Stanton) E Weymes 4-8-12 Dale Gibson 95
107 (1) 31 HANDMAIDEN 30 (G) (R Fenwick-Gibson) J Eyre 5-8-9 T Ives 89
108 (7) 504050- MEMORABLE 9J (CD,G,S) (C Barber-Lomax) J Hetherton 4-7-9 N Kennedy [illegible]

BETTING: 5-2 Shakiyr, 3-1 Cutthroat Kid, 6-1 Memorable, Handmaiden, 7-1 Moonlight Quest, 8-1 others.

1994: BROUGHTONS FORMULA 4-8-9 D Biggs (2-1) W Musson 4 ran

FORM FOCUS

FOX SPARROW 30l last of 8 to Suivez in handicap at Southwell (AW, 1m 3f). POMORIE about 9½l 6th of 10 to Norma's Lady in handicap at Nottingham (2m, good to firm). MOONLIGHT QUEST about 4½l 5th of 7 to Ere Leath-Sceal in handicap at Beverley (1m 4f, good to firm) on penultimate start, July 1994. CUTTHROAT KID 19l 13th of 23 to Achilles Heel in apprentices handicap at Doncaster (1m 4f, good). SHAKIYR beat Stevie's Wonder neck in handicap at Wolverhampton (AW, 1m 4f). NEW INN 32l last of 9 to Nodian in handicap at Wolverhampton (AW, 1m 4f). HANDMAIDEN beat Starmwan 2l in auction maiden at Southwell (AW, 1m 4f). MEMORABLE 20l 9th of 15 to Uncle Doug in handicap at Newcastle (2m, good to soft).
Selection: SHAKIYR

2.50 TOYTOP CONDITIONS STAKES (2-Y-O: £3,377: 5f) (7 runners)

201 (4) ABDUCTION (R Heaton) E Weymes 8-11 K Darley –
202 (3) 6 DUNGEON MASTER 6 (Classicstone Ptnrs) M Channon 8-11 R Hughes –
203 (5) GHOSTLY APPARITION (Mrs D Upson) J Upson 8-11 T Ives –
204 (1) 0 RAMSEY HOPE 6 (C Barber-Lomax) C Fairhurst 8-11 N Kennedy –
205 (2) BAILEYS BRIDE (G Bailey Ltd (Baileys Horse Feeds)) M Johnston 8-6 D Holland –
206 (6) MYSTIQUE SMILE (C Newton Jnr Ltd) J Berry 8-6 J Carroll –
207 (7) PRECIOUS GIRL (P Avery) D Moffatt 8-6 Darren Moffatt (3) –

BETTING: 2-1 Mystique Smile, 11-4 Baileys Bride, 5-1 Dungeon Master, Ramsey Hope, 8-1 others.

1994: SEIGNEURIAL 8-11 A Culhane (7-4 fav) R Whitaker 6 ran

FORM FOCUS

ABDUCTION (Foaled Mar 22, cost 3,000gns). First foal by Risk Me; dam modest 1m 4f winner. DUNGEON MASTER 4½l 6th of 12 to World Premier in conditions race at Doncaster (5f, good) with RAMSEY HOPE 1l 7th. GHOSTLY APPARITION (Feb 28, 1,250gns). First foal by Gods Solution; dam three-time juvenile winner. BAILEYS BRIDE (Mar 19, 8,000Irgns). Half-sister by Shy Groom to Rustic Lace, useful 7f winning juvenile; dam 1m 1f maiden winner at three years. MYSTIQUE SMILE (Mar 21, 7,000gns). Half-sister by Music Boy to modest sprinter We're Joken; dam 5f/6f winner. PRECIOUS GIRL (Apr 30). First foal by Precious Metal.
Selection: DUNGEON MASTER

3.20 WHORLTON HANDICAP (£3,800: 1m 3f 214yd) (9 runners)

301 (3) 141-130 SLMAAT 35 (D,G,S) (G Faradon) Mrs M Reveley 4-10-0 K Darley 93
302 (7) 26-0145 HILLZAH 21 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs P Churm) R Bastiman 7-9-12 H Bastiman (5) 98
303 (1) 512250- DOUBLE ECHO 264 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs J Lee) J Bethell 7-9-6 J Weaver 87
304 (5) 04/3000- CHOWPOR 29J (Allerton Racing Club) M Hammond 4-9-4 J Marshall 85
305 (4) 1510-06 HILL FARM DANCER 9 (D,F,G) (D Newton) W Brisbourne 4-8-10 A Garth (5) 80
306 (2) 535P00 MILNGAVIE 27 (D,F,G,S) (A Robertson) M Johnston 5-8-6 D Holland 91
307 (8) 040560- GOLDEN STAR 9J (D Travers-Clark) M W Easterby 4-8-6 Martin Dwyer (7) 92
308 (6) /54034- MAC RAMBLER 14J (Dr H Ngan) N Bycroft 8-7-7 N Kennedy 85
309 (9) 06-1312 CONTRAFIRE 6 (G) (Miss V Jarvis) W Jarvis 3-7-7 N Varley (5) [illegible]

Long handicap: Mac Rambler 7-6, Contrafire 7-4.

BETTING: 6-4 Contrafire, 7-2 Hillzah, 5-1 Double Echo, 6-1 Slmaat, 10-1 Mac Rambler, 12-1 others.

1994: KINOKO 6-8-7 D McKeown (7-2) K Hogg 11 ran

FORM FOCUS

SLMAAT 3½l 3rd of 13 to Palacegate Jo in handicap at Southwell (AW, 1m 3f) on penultimate start. HILLZAH best effort this term beat Cedez Le Passage ½l in handicap at Wolverhampton (AW, 1m 4f). DOUBLE ECHO best effort last term 1l 2nd of 6 to Misbelief in handicap at Thirsk (1m 4f, firm) June 1994. CHOWPOR 15l 11th of 14 to Dare Sparrow in handicap at Yarmouth (6f, soft). HILL FARM DANCER 23½l 6th of 11 to Modest Hope in handicap at Southwell (AW, 1m 3f). MILNGAVIE 20l 7th to Head Turner in handicap at Lingfield (AW, 2m). CONTRAFIRE 3l 2nd of 18 to Inquisitor in handicap at Doncaster (1m 2f 60yd, good).
Selection: HILLZAH

3.50 SPRINGTIME LIMITED STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,973: 5f) (12 runners)

401 (3) 844-345 PURSUANCE 51 (V) (Spring Hill Stud) J Balding 8-11 J Edmunds (7) 83
402 (4) 30-3301 NADWATY 9 (D,G) (Mrs B Ward) M Chapman 8-9 C Munday (7) 95
403 (8) 23100-0 ANOTHER NIGHTMARE 54 (D,S) (GM Engineering) R McKellar 8-6 Dale Gibson 91
404 (5) 425- GANADOR 282 (Mrs B Ancell) J Berry 8-6 J Carroll 95
405 (7) 0-56263 IVY LILIAN 9 (M Hughes) W Brisbourne 8-6 A Garth (5) 87
406 (12) 00000- MISS FELIXSTOWE 181 (Port of Felixstowe) Mrs M Reveley 8-6 J Weaver 80
407 (9) 26010-0 MY LADY BRADY 28 (D,G) (P Shorrock) G Oldroyd 8-6 M McAndrew [illegible]
408 (6) 4-23542 POLY LAUREON 28 (D,F,G) (J Forsyth) R Hollinshead 8-6 W Ryan 93
409 (2) 060-0 PRIME PROPERTY 37 (A Black & Co) G Kelly 8-6 L Charnock 91
410 (10) 41605-0 SEENTHELIGHT 82 (D,G) (Mrs M Pickering) D Moffatt 8-6 Darren Moffatt (3) 94
411 (11) 153320- SUNDAY MAIL TOO 175 (D,S) (Sunday Mail Ltd) Miss L Perratt 8-6 J Fanning 88
412 (1) 641-322 WASBLEST 62 (D,BF,G) (Mrs S Dingwall) M Johnston 8-6 D Holland 86

BETTING: 4-1 Wasblest, 6-1 Nadwaty, Miss Felixstowe, Ganador, 7-1 Poly Laureon, 8-1 Pursuance, 10-1 others.

1994: INDIAN DREAMER 8-8 M Fenton (4-5 fav) M Bell 12 ran

FORM FOCUS

PURSUANCE best recent effort 2l 3rd of 6 to Half Tone in maiden handicap at Wolverhampton (AW, 5f). NADWATY beat Russian Heroine 5l in seller at Southwell (AW, 5f) with IVY LILIAN (3lb better off) 1¾l 3rd. GANADOR 2¾l 2nd of 12 to Al Rawda in maiden at Pontefract (6f, firm) on penultimate start, June 1994. MISS FELIXSTOWE 10l 15th of 16 to Try To Please in nursery at Newmarket (5f, good to firm). MY LADY BRADY best effort last term beat Pierre Bosco 4l in auction maiden at Southwell (AW, 5f). POLY LAUREON 2½l 2nd of 10 to Ultra Beet in claimer at Wolverhampton (AW, 5f) with MY LADY BRADY (1lb better off) 15½l 7th. SUNDAY MAIL TOO ½l 2nd of 16 to Able Sheriff in seller at Edinburgh (5f, good to firm) on penultimate start, Aug 1994. WASBLEST ½l 2nd of 4 to Dolly Face in handicap at Lingfield (AW, 5f).
Selection: POLY LAUREON (nap)

4.20 FORCETT PARK SELLING STAKES (£2,713: 7f) (15 runners)

501 (11) 00-0500 MAKE THE BREAK 39 (D,F,G) (B Rogerson) S Coathup 4-9-11 T Williams 86
502 (3) 00306-5 ROSEATE LODGE 26 (F,G) (Astaire & Partners Ltd) K Burke 9-9-11 T Ives 87
503 (8) 222112 SEA DEVIL 11 (D,BF,F,G,S) (A Goacher) M Camacho 9-9-11 L Charnock 98
504 (2) 250-035 BEWARE OF AGENTS 57 (D,F,S) (B Yeardley) M Hammond 6-9-7 Dean McKeown [illegible]
505 (7) 00-0500 COALISLAND 46 (V,S) (P McKernan) R Ingram 5-9-7 W Woods 86
506 (13) FUNNY WORRY 18J (P Monteith) P Monteith 6-9-7 J Marshall –
507 (12) 032205 GREEK GOLD 40 (G) (T Connors) G Kelly 6-9-7 K Darley 83
508 (1) 006/05-6 HALBERT 29 (Miss B Coyle) M Channon 5-9-7 R Hughes –
509 (14) 502000- MY GODSON 148 (B,C,S) (Whitestonecliffe Racing) F O'Mahony 5-9-7 S D Williams 74
510 (6) 00000-5 OBSIDIAN GREY 75 (D,G,S) (Miss L Siddall) Miss L Siddall 8-9-7 D R McCabe (3) 81
511 (9) 000/60- SILVER WILL 242 (G Leggott) W Barker 5-9-7 V Halliday (5) –
512 (5) 50400-0 WATERLORD 9 (D,S) (J Wilkinson) D Nicholls 5-9-7 Alex Greaves 87
513 (15) 33326-0 CLEDESCHAMPS 79 (G) (Mrs H Ellerby) M Ellerby 6-9-2 S Morris 73
514 (4) 423310 PROFIT RELEASE 28 (D,F,G) (G Bailey Ltd) M Johnston 4-9-2 D Holland 83
515 (10) 00350-0 RED MARCH HARE 68J (P Airey) D Moffatt 4-9-2 Darren Moffatt (3) 66

BETTING: 5-2 Sea Devil, 5-1 Beware Of Agents, 6-1 Profit Release, 10-1 Roseate Lodge, 12-1 Coalisland, Halbert, Cledeschamps, 14-1 others.

1994: WALI 4-9-11 J Carroll (11-4 fav) J Berry 18 ran

FORM FOCUS

ROSEATE LODGE 6½l 5th to No Submission in seller at Southwell (AW, 1m). SEA DEVIL 2l 2nd to Abbey House in apprentices claimer at Wolverhampton (AW, 6f). BEWARE OF AGENTS 15¾l 5th to Perilous Plight in claimer at Lingfield (AW, 1m). GREEK GOLD best recent effort ¾l 2nd of 8 to Medland in claimer at Lingfield (AW, 1m 2f). HALBERT about 20l 6th of 7 to Sweet Supposin in claimer at Lingfield (AW, 7f). CLEDECHAMPS 21l 9th of 11 to Quinzii Martin in handicap at Southwell (AW, 7f). PROFIT RELEASE beat Eastleigh 3½l in 12-runner seller at Lingfield (AW, 1m) on penultimate start. Earlier beat and 1¾l 3rd of 8 to Shuttlecock in claimer at Southwell (AW, 1m) with RED MARCH HARE (8lb worse off) 7l 7th.
Selection: PROFIT RELEASE

4.50 GODS SOLUTION HANDICAP (£4,037: 7f) (12 runners)

601 (1) 221000- KNOBBLEENEEZE 160 (V,D,F,G,S) (A Andrews) M Channon 5-10-0 R Hughes 89
602 (9) 11000-0 ELLE SHAPED 5 (CD,F,G) (Simple Technology Ltd) D Nicholls 5-10-0 Alex Greaves 94
603 (8) 00-0465 ALLINSON'S MATE 33 (C,D,F,G) (P Jones) T Barron 7-9-9 J Fortune 92
604 (3) 54/3-2 TATIKA 21 (G Wragg) G Wragg 5-9-9 W Woods 85
605 (5) 066600- SPANISH VERDICT 146 (D,F,S) (Cox & Allen Ltd) Denys Smith 8-9-5 C Teague (7) 86
606 (11) 4/00032- UP IN FLAMES 23J (M Kilner) M Hammond 4-9-4 J Carroll 84
607 (6) 211100 LITTLE IBNR 28 (D,G) (Swinnerton Transport Ltd) P Evans 4-9-4 J Weaver [illegible]
608 (10) 2106-31 SECOND COLOURS 11 (C,D,F,G) (P Savill) Mrs M Reveley 5-8-13 K Darley 87
609 (7) 6416-43 BOGART 51 (D,G) (A Development Products) C Fairhurst 4-8-10 Dean McKeown 86
610 (2) 002000- DANTE'S RUBICON 209 (The Dante Partnership) J Bethell 4-8-0 T Williams 85
611 (4) 2/0-3666 MEESON TIMES 33 (F,G,S) (C Castle) R Bastiman 7-7-13 L Charnock 80
612 (12) 0000-40 HILL FARM KATIE 9 (B,G) (S George) W Brisbourne 4-7-12 A Garth (5) 80

BETTING: 7-2 Tatika, 4-1 Second Colours, 5-1 Up In Flames, 6-1 Little Ibnr, 8-1 Bogart, Elle Shaped, 10-1 Allinson's Mate, 12-1 others.

1994: CHAMPAGNE GRANDY 4-9-7 R Painter (4-1) M Channon 13 ran

FORM FOCUS

KNOBBLEENEEZE 20l 15th to Jobie in apprentices handicap at Newbury (7f, good). ELLE SHAPED 10l 15th of 22 to Castlerea Lad in handicap at Doncaster (6f, good to firm). ALLINSON'S MATE 10½l 5th to Flowing Ocean in handicap at Southwell (AW, 7f). TATIKA 1½l 2nd to Allemande in maiden at Wolverhampton (AW, 1m 100yd). UP IN FLAMES ½l 2nd to Royal Comedian in apprentices handicap at Chester (7f 122yd, good to firm). LITTLE IBNR 9½l 7th to Mahool in handicap at Wolverhampton (AW, 7f). SECOND COLOURS beat No Submission 2½l in seller at Wolverhampton (AW, 1m 100yd). BOGART beat and 8l 3rd of 9 to Aquado in handicap at Southwell (AW, 7f) with MEESON TIMES (3lb better off) 5¾l 6th.
Selection: KNOBBLEENEEZE

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
G Wragg	8	21	38.1	D Holland	8	37	21.6
M Camacho	4	17	23.5	K Darley	28	144	19.4
Mrs M Reveley	20	86	23.3	J Carroll	23	131	17.6
M Hammond	5	26	19.2	W Ryan	8	46	17.4
D Nicholls	3	17	17.6	J Weaver	10	71	14.1
M Channon	4	23	17.4	J Fortune	11	80	13.8

LINGFIELD PARK

THUNDERER

2.10 Bencher Q C. 2.40 Maradonna. 3.10 Roman Reel. 3.40 Modest Hope. 4.10 Kedwick. 4.40 Bold Frontier.

Our Newmarket Correspondent:
2.10 **BENCHER Q C** (nap).

GOING: STANDARD SIS
DRAW: 5F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST

2.10 SAN SEBASTIAN MAIDEN STAKES
(3-Y-O: £3,800: 7f) (9 runners)

1 BENCHER Q C J Gosden 9-0 L Dettori 6
2 50-6 FULL COVER 34 (V) D Elsworth 9-0 W Newnes 9
3 00 HE'S SPECIAL 27 C Cyzer 9-0 G Duffield 2
4 03-0 KREEF 4 R O'Sullivan 9-0 D Biggs 1
5 226- SHEN YANG 153 G L Moore 9-0 B Rouse 3
6 50-4 ALUTE 9 C Brittain 8-9 B Doyle 8
7 0 MISS JEMMIMA 21 Lord Huntingdon 8-9 D Harrison 5
8 200- RUBYLEE 151 K McAuliffe 8-9 R Cochrane 4
9 -040 TAPPING FEET 49 D Hyde 8-9 R Havlin (7) 7

5-4 Bencher Q C, 4-1 Shen Yang, 8-1 Alute, Full Cover, 10-1 Kreef, Rubylee, 12-1 others.

2.40 VIGO CLAIMING STAKES
(£2,721: 2m) (7)

1 3230 ARC BRIGHT 11 (CD,G) R Hollinshead 5-9-8 L Dettori 1
2 5-02 MARADONNA 11 (S) J White 6-9-8 M Fenton 7
3 /05 QUADRANT 34 (C,G) A Moore 6-8-12 Candy Morris 4
4 06 A NEW FLAME 30 (V) R Guest 4-8-7 C Hawksley (5) 5
5 4-03 CALL ME ALBI 27 (V,F) G L Moore 4-8-7 B Rouse 2
6 2320 LON ISA 13 B Palling 4-8-6 A Clark 3
7 3-40 AERIAL VIEW 63 W G M Turner 4-8-5 G Duffield 6

9-4 Arc Bright, 3-1 Maradonna, 7-2 Call Me Albi, 5-1 Lon Isa, 6-1 Quadrant, 14-1 Aerial View, 25-1 A New Flame.

3.10 BILBAO LIMITED STAKES
(£2,721: 1m 2f) (7)

1 13 EL ATREVIDO 43 (CD,G) N Walker 5-9-3 R Cochrane 2
2 6010 ROMAN REEL 13 (CD,F,G) G L Moore 4-9-2 B Rouse 4
3 60-5 BRAVE SPY 29 C Cyzer 4-9-0 G Duffield 7
4 400- GENERAL SHIRLEY 176 P Hedger 4-9-0 Stephen Davies 1
5 4-10 SCOTTISH PARK 53 (CD,F,G,S) R Emery 6-8-12 J Williams 6
6 253- SHUTTLINGSLOW 34J N Gaselee 4-8-9 T Quinn 3
7 -533 ZACAROON 30 (BF,G) Lord Huntingdon 4-8-9 L Dettori 5

5-2 El Atrevido, 3-1 Brave Spy, 7-2 Zacaroon, 5-1 Roman Reel, 8-1 Shuttlingslow, 12-1 General Shirley, 14-1 Scottish Park.

3.40 SANTIAGO HANDICAP
(£3,045: 1m 4f) (7)

1 2336 BAG OF TRICKS 39 (G) S Dow 5-10-0 D Harrison 6
2 0-36 GINGER JIM 29 (V) P Hedger 4-9-7 G Duffield 3
3 5021 MODEST HOPE 9 (CD,F,G) B Richmond 8-9-4 (5ex) L Dettori 7
4 -130 LONG FURLONG 39 (CD,F,G) J Bosley 7-9-2 C Rutter 5
5 6/5 NORTHERN TRIAL 11 (V,G) K Burke 7-9-0 J Tate (3) 4
6 40-0 ACROSS THE BAY 11 (B,C,F,G,S) R Emery 8-8-8 J Williams 2
7 5560 PIGALLE WONDER 36 (C,G) R O'Sullivan 7-7-12 N Adams 1

9-4 Modest Hope, 3-1 Bag Of Tricks, 4-1 Long Furlong, 6-1 Ginger Jim, 7-1 Across The Bay, 10-1 Northern Trial, 16-1 Pigalle Wonder

4.10 LIMA HANDICAP
(£3,188: 1m) (8)

1 3121 DIGPAST 27 (B,C,G) R O'Sullivan 5-10-0 D Biggs 8
2 0031 GREEN'S BID 13 (CD,G) D Chapman 5-9-6 A Culhane 2
3 2352 KEDWICK 32 (B) P Hedger 6-9-1 Stephen Davies 7
4 600- MELODY DANCER 158 R Emery 4-9-0 J Williams 1
5 4221 INDIAN SERENADE 13 (CD,G) P Harris 4-8-13 J Stack (5) 6
6 2133 EASTLEIGH 11 (CD,G,S) R Hollinshead 6-8-11 L Dettori 4
7 3340 FAHA 11 (D,G) Mrs N Macauley 7-8-5 Amanda Sanders (7) 3
8 0022 PAIR OF JACKS 13 (G) D Wilson 5-7-8 J Quinn 5

9-4 Digpast, 3-1 Indian Serenade, 4-1 Kedwick, 5-1 Green's Bid, 6-1 Pair Of Jacks, 8-1 Eastleigh, 10-1 others.

4.40 SANTANDER HANDICAP
(3-Y-O: £2,821: 6f) (9)

1 1522 BON SECRET 36 (C,G) T Naughton 9-7 S Sanders (3) 3
2 2440 BOLD FRONTIER 6 (B,G) K Ivory 9-5 G Duffield 4
3 -241 ABBEY HOUSE 11 (B,C,D,G) R Guest 9-1 C Hawksley (5) 7
4 00-0 WOOLVERSTONE HALL 36 (BF) D Murray Smith 8-11 T Quinn 8
5 06-0 EXCLUSIVE ASSEMBLY 11 A James 8-10 F Norton 1
6 0500 TACHYCARDIA 38 (D,F,G) R O'Sullivan 8-2 Stephen Davies 6
7 000- DEARDAW 145 M Usher 8-0 C Adamson (7) 9
8 000- FALSE PRETENCES 185 B Pearce 7-11 M Baird (5) 5
9 000- GILPA TRINKETS 193 D Chapman 7-11 J Quinn 2

9-4 Bold Frontier, 3-1 Bon Secret, 4-1 Abbey House, 7-1 Tachycardia, 8-1 Woolverstone Hall, 10-1 Deardaw, 12-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: P Harris, 8 winners from 27 runners, 29.6%; N Walker, 6 from 21, 28.6%; J Gosden, 5 from 22, 22.7%; K McAuliffe, 7 from 31, 22.6%; Lord Huntingdon, 31 from 144, 21.5%; C Brittain, 22 from 113, 19.5%.

JOCKEYS: L Dettori, 55 winners from 221 rides, 24.9%; Amanda Sanders, 5 from 25, 20.0%; G Duffield, 24 from 123, 19.5%; T Quinn, 49 from 269, 18.2%; B Rouse, 19 from 145, 13.1%; Stephen Davies, 19 from 151, 12.6%

Blinkered first time

CATTERICK BRIDGE: 2.20 New Inn 4.50 Hill Farm Katie LINGFIELD PARK: 2.10 Full Cover WORCESTER: 5.00 Millfield Miss

Inspection at Catterick

Catterick Bridge is the only meeting in doubt today after the sudden cold snap had claimed yesterday's racing at Newcastle and Towcester. Snow has also fallen at Catterick, where there will be an inspection at 7.30 this morning. Prospects are brighter at Worcester and Lingfield Park.

WORCESTER

THUNDERER

2.00 Dancing Sam. 2.30 Wise Statement. 3.00 General Wolfe. 3.30 Slew Man. 4.00 Stop The Waller. 4.30 Le Meille. 5.00 Ethel's Dream.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating:
3.00 GENERAL WOLFE.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM SIS

2.00 NEWLAND MAIDEN HURDLE
(£2,414: 2m) (22 runners)

1 0334 BONNIFER 55 M Wilkinson 6-11-6 C Llewellyn [illegible]
2 25 BUSKING ALONG 28 F Murphy 6-11-6 A Maguire (5) 85
3 00- CHANCE DE LA VIE 382 Miss C Horler 6-11-6 W Marston –
4 4-05 DANCE ON SIXPENCE 93 J Peacock 7-11-6 R Bellamy 85
5 532 DANCING SAM 28 T Forster 6-11-6 A Thornton 95
6 00 EKBUS 18 J King 5-11-6 B Powell –
7 4 FORGE GOLD 16 H Collingridge 5-11-6 S McNeill 86
8 KATE'S KID 121F M Ahern 5-11-6 M Ahern –
9 0 MONTEZUMAS REVENGE 18 M Wilkinson 7-11-6 P Ward (7) –
10 32-0 NORMAN'S CONVINCED 152 M Pipe 5-11-6 R Dunwoody –
11 23-3 PETE THE PARSON 8 J Old 6-11-6 T Grantham 82
12 SAMLEE 343P P Hobbs 6-11-6 Peter Hobbs –
13 0 SHEER ECSTASY 8 R Dickin 5-11-6 D Meredith (3) –
14 SHEPTON SONG N Babbage 5-11-6 W Humphreys –
15 4-40 SPEARHEAD AGAIN 23 S Christian 6-11-6 G Upton 84
16 SUBSONIC 296F K Morgan 7-11-6 A S Smith –
17 5-0 DANCING BAREFOOT 34 D C Tucker 6-11-1 M Griffiths (7) –
18 6P KELLY'S FIDDLE 34 Mrs H Parrott 5-11-1 V Slattery –
19 250- SIAN WYN 11F K Burke 5-11-1 M A Fitzgerald 72
20 0 BITE THE BULLET 9F D Ffrench Davis 4-10-12 N Williamson –
21 6 YER 'UMBLE 181 J Cresswell 4-10-12 W McFarland –
22 P PAMMIE'S GAL 242 J Joseph 4-10-7 D Skyrme –

4-1 Dancing Sam, 5-1 Pete The Parson, 7-1 Bonnifer, 8-1 Norman's Convinced, 10-1 Subsonic, 12-1 Forge Gold, 14-1 others.

2.30 GRANDSTAND CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,443: 2m 4f) (11)

1 U012 BALLET ROYAL 7 (G,S) H Manners 6-11-12 M Appleby (5) [illegible]
2 -230 SAYYURE 11 (D,F,G,S) J White 9-11-11 P McLoughlin 97
3 4225 FOOLS ERRAND 18 (S) R Hannon 5-11-5 T Jenks 98
4 3/2- AUTHORSHIP 433 (D,F,G) W Musson 9-11-4 J Supple 92
5 3/0 TACTICAL MISSION 27 (D,G) J Akehurst 7-11-0 A P McCoy –
6 -005 GALAXY HIGH 70 (G,S) P Hobbs 8-10-12 M Moran (5) 93
7 41-P MILZIG 16 (F,S) J Joseph 6-10-11 Karen Cook (7) 90
8 144P SILVER STANDARD 82 (D,S) T Forster 5-10-8 D Meredith 95
9 P410 WISE STATEMENT 76 (G) G Balding 6-10-2 R Arnold (5) 90
10 F063 FREE DANCER 11 (S) R Brotherton 5-10-0 T Eley 86
11 F600 BY FAR 9 (F) Mrs F Owen 9-10-0 S Wynne 78

7-2 Ballet Royal, 4-1 Fools Errand, 6-1 Sayyure, 7-1 Wise Statement, 8-1 Tactical Mission, Free Dancer, 10-1 Galaxy High, 12-1 others.

3.00 SONNY SOMERS NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE
(£3,316: 2m 7f) (18)

1 -U41 GENERAL WOLFE 78 (S) T Forster 8-12-0 R Dunwoody [illegible]
2 562- RING CORBITTS 376 M Roberts 7-11-11 Peter Hobbs 84
3 F231 RUSTIC SUNSET 11 (S) A Turnell 9-11-10 S McNeill 87
4 4052 IRISH STAMP 49 (S) F Murphy 6-11-8 M Dwyer 83
5 FF31 FULL OF FIRE 16 (S) K Bailey 8-11-4 N Williamson 87
6 5P14 GILPA VALU 27 (S) Mrs J Pitman 6-11-4 W Marston 91
7 RS-3 RUBINS BOY 18 (F) N Walker 9-11-2 G Upton 81
8 -3FU FOUR HEARTS 70 T Forster 6-10-12 C Llewellyn 80
9 5123 IMPECCABLE TIMING 14 (S) D O'Neill 12-10-9 Mr A Mitchell (7) 90
10 5P43 MAGSOOD 8 (G) J Mullins 10-10-8 B Clifford 93
11 54U2 BUCKELIGHT 16 T Forster 7-10-7 R Farrant 87
12 /P-P TAXI LAD 14 (S) R Brazington 11-10-3 W Humphreys –
13 FOPO HOSTETLER 70 (S) K Bridgwater 6-10-0 D Bridgwater 74
14 3343 FAWLEY FLYER 16 (F,G) W G M Turner 6-10-0 C Maude –
15 -UPP BARGAIN AND SALE 28 (F,G,S) D Minty 10-10-0 W McFarland –
16 5003 WYCHURCH 16 (B) J Joseph 9-10-0 D Skyrme 79
17 POPP ELECTROFANE 39 P Murphy 7-10-0 L Harvey –
18 -0SF LITTLE WISHFUL 50 R Dickin 7-10-0 D Meredith (3) –

3-1 General Wolfe, 6-1 Irish Stamp, 7-1 Rustic Sunset, Buckelight, 8-1 Full Of Fire, Gilpa Valu, 10-1 Rubins Boy, 12-1 others.

3.30 BORCHESTER JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,320: 2m) (11)

1 1 GLANMERIN 39 (D,S) K Morgan 11-4 A S Smith 86
2 5610 MARLINO 13 (G) N Twiston-Davies 11-4 C Llewellyn 71
3 0216 SLEW MAN 15 (D,S) M Pipe 11-4 J Lower [illegible]
4 4420 ZAITOON 12 (D,G) D Nicholson 11-4 A Maguire 78
5 PERTEMPS FLYER 118F R Dickin 10-12 D Meredith (3) –
6 PROFESSION 156F F Gray 10-12 M Crosse –
7 0P UNISON 93 C Barwell 10-12 B Clifford –
8 0 CANARY BLUE 8 P Hiatt 10-7 D J Burchell –
9 0 GREGGINA 7 J Tuck 10-7 S McNeill –
10 00P MARROWFAT LADY 21 Mrs P Dutfield 10-7 P Holley –
11 0 PILLOW TALK 25F K Burke 10-7 M A Fitzgerald –

5-4 Slew Man, 11-4 Glanmerin, 9-2 Zaitoon, 10-1 Marlino, 20-1 others.

4.00 NEW SEASON HANDICAP CHASE
(£4,118: 2m 4f 110yd) (5)

1 F311 FILE CONCORD 16 (D,G,S) Mrs J Pitman 11-11-12 W Marston 95
2 4232 LADY GHISLAINE 15 (G,S) F Murphy 8-11-4 A Maguire 97
3 21-U NEW GHOST 14 (S) G Giddings 10-11-4 Mr S Malcaire (7) 88
4 1-00 BELAFONTE 93 (F,G,S) Miss K George 8-10-10 V Slattery 88
5 3213 STOP THE WALLER 28 (S) M Barnes 8-10-0 N Williamson [illegible]

5-4 File Concord, 5-2 Lady Ghislaine, 3-1 Stop The Waller, 8-1 others.

4.30 LEVY BOARD NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,513: 3m) (21)

1 1015 SPARKLING CONE 12 (S) M Pipe 6-12-0 R Dunwoody 95
2 2642 HUGE MISTAKE 19 (G) N Twiston-Davies 6-11-5 C Llewellyn [illegible]
3 P341 BOURNEL 15 (V,S) C Barwell 7-11-2 Mr Richard White (7) 85
4 -F6F YES MAN 39 Miss H Knight 6-11-2 J Osborne 85
5 6U64 LE MEILLE 8 A Jarvis 6-10-13 N Williamson 88
6 3130 DAKOTA GIRL 12 (G,S) G Balding 4-10-12 A P McCoy 83
7 P51U DERRING BRIDGE 9 (S) Mrs S Johnson 5-10-10 Mr R Johnson (7) 88
8 2440 RAISIN TURF 23 D Nicholson 6-10-9 A Maguire 91
9 2300 JATHIB 32 C Williams 4-10-7 S Keightley 87
10 2601 TARGET LINE 18 (S) Mrs S Smith 5-10-3 Richard Guest 91
11 -002 STORMTRACKER 16 C Weedon 6-10-0 M Richards 90
12 00P5 LENEY MOSS 14 A Chamberlain 5-10-0 B Powell –
13 P-P6 LEAP INTO SPRING 79 (G,S) J White 5-10-0 P McLoughlin (3) –
14 -00P HEPBURN 11 (B) R Brazington 7-10-0 W Humphreys 77
15 -000 WELSH'S GAMBLE 11 J Old 6-10-0 T Grantham –
16 -P06 SMOKEBRIDGE GRAS 23 W G M Turner 8-10-0 M Griffiths (7) 78
17 PFPP EXPRESS TRAVEL 79 R Curtis 7-10-0 D Morris –
18 PF0 MINDYEROWNBUSINESS 11 R Lee 6-10-0 R Greene 74
19 0PF5 NORDIC FLIGHT 11 (B) R Eckley 7-10-0 V Slattery –
20 -P66 LYRICAL SEAL 23 (B) Miss A Whitfield 5-10-0 S McNeill –
21 U0P WATERFORD COURT 28 A Dunn 8-10-0 Peter Hobbs –

3-1 Huge Mistake, 9-2 Sparkling Cone, 7-1 Bournel, 10-1 others.

5.00 BONUSPRINT MARES ONLY NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,795: 2m) (22)

1 ANGLESEY SEA VIEW A Bailey 6-11-1 Mr R Hewitt –
2 4- BEGGARS LANE 333 S Christian 6-11-1 Mr M Rimell (5) –
3 D BEL PROMISE 23 J Webber 6-11-1 Mr P Scott (7) –
4 6 BRIERY GALE 14 T Forster 5-11-1 A P McCoy –
5 ETHEL'S DREAM D Nicholson 5-11-1 Mr R Johnson (7) –
6 4 GEMMA'S WAGER 21 Mark Campion 5-11-1 D Meredith (3) –
7 40 GOLD PIGEON 14 B Rothwell 6-11-1 J Supple (5) –
8 0 HERBIDACIOUS 49 M Roberts 5-11-1 Mr T McCarthy (7) –
9 0 JOLI JUSTICE 154 J Honeyball 5-11-1 N Wilmington (7) –
10 0 LITTLE TOOT TOOT 6 Mrs A Knight 6-11-1 D Matthews (5) –
11 MILLFIELD MISS 322P (B) R Juckes 6-11-1 N Juckes (7) –
12 4 MISS BRECKNELL 18 Mrs J Pitman 6-11-1 J James (7) –
13 0 MISWISKERS 14 R Price 5-11-1 D Leahy (3) –
14 0 OVER YONDER 19 J Edwards 5-11-1 Mr M Daly (7) –
15 3- PRIVILEGEDTOSERVE 366 K Bishop 6-11-1 M Moran (7) –
16 PROPOSE THE TOAST N Gaselee 5-11-1 W Currie (7) –
17 5 THE ANGEL LEEK 21 M Pipe 5-11-1 L Reynolds (7) –
18 00 VENDEE 36 Miss J Doyle 6-11-1 Mr G Brown –
19 0 ALICE SHORELARK 34 S Knight 4-10-7 Mr T Greed –
20 BILL'S JOY N Smith 4-10-7 T Jenks –
21 FLY IN AMBER D French Davis 4-10-7 P McLoughlin (3) –
22 MICHELLES CRYSTAL F Jordan 4-10-7 R Massey (5) –

3-1 Miss Brecknell, 9-2 Ethel's Dream, 6-1 Beggars Lane, 10-1 others

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: Miss H Knight, 13 winners from 40 runners, 32.5%, M Pipe, 41 from 137, 29.9%, P Hobbs, 28 from 114, 24.6%; C Barwell, 5 from 21, 23.8%; K Burke, 6 from 28, 21.4%.

JOCKEYS: J Osborne, 29 winners from 119 rides, 24.4%, Peter Hobbs, 17 from 77, 22.1%, N Williamson, 20 from 108, 18.5%, A Maguire, 25 from 144, 17.4%, R Dunwoody, 35 from 223, 15.7%.

THE TIMES
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Commentary
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WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 35

ORTANIQUE

(b) A citrus fruit resembling a slightly flattened orange, produced by crossing an orange and a tangerine and cultivated in the West Indies, a composite word made from *or(ange)* + *tan(gerine)* + *(un)ique*.

PRISIADKA

(c) A dance-step in which the male dancer squats on his heels and kicks out each leg alternately to the front, also used for the dance itself, from the Russian. "They burst out into wild Ukrainian dancing with every possible variation of the squatting step prisiadka."

RICKEY

(a) An iced drink consisting of gin, whisky, or the like, mixed with lime or lemon-juice and carbonated water. Probably from the surname *Rickey*. "O Henry". *Gentle Grafter*. 1908: "Why, in Bryan's second campaign, they used to give me three gin rickeys and I'd speak for two hours longer than Billy himself could on the silver question."

PIFFING

(b) Sub-calibre firing by artillery, echoic from the disappointing sound such bad gunnery makes. *Daily Telegraph*, 1928: "Gunnery training is confined for the most part to sub-calibre firing — piffing as it is known in service parlance."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Nf5! gxf5 2 Qg5+ Kf8 3 Rh6 and Rh8 will inevitably follow

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS FROM SANDOWN PARK

Going: good to firm (firm in places)

2.10 (2m ch) 1, LEOTARD (J Osborne, 4-1); 2, Martin's Lamp (A Maguire, 4-6 fav); 3, Medinas Swan Song (A Tory, 9-2). ALSO RAN: 15-2 I Have Him (4th). 4 ran. 6l, 14l, 10l. O Sherwood at Upper Lambourn. Tote: £4.10. DF: £2.10. CSF: £8.96.

2.45 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1, OATIS REGRETS (J Osborne, 8-5 fav); 2, Master Boston (D Gallagher, 7-4); 3, Denver Bay (A Maguire, 7-2). ALSO RAN: 25 Pennine Pass (5th), 50 Maremma Gale (4th). 5 ran. 15l, 13l, 7l, 20l. Miss H Knight at Wantage. Tote: £2.40; £1.50, £1.40. DF: £2.00. CSF: £3.52.

3.15 (3m 110yd ch) 1, COOL GROUND (Mr D Alers-Hankey, 15-8, Private Handicapper's top rating); 2, Wild Illusion (Mr J Trice-Rolph, 10-11 fav); 3, Fifth Amendment (Mr C Ward Thomas, 10-1). ALSO RAN: 14 Urquarat (6th), 20 Benbulbin (ur), 66 Silvanno (5th), 100 Eagle Trace (4th), Gunner Stream (ur), Light The Wick, Parson's Way. 10 ran. 4l, 15l, 4l, 3l, 25l. D Elsworth at Whitcombe. Tote: £2.80; £1.50, £1.30, £1.80. DF: £2.60. Trio: £3.90. CSF: £3.58.

3.50 (3m 110yd ch) 1, RUN UP THE FLAG (Mr C Bonner, 7-4); 2, Percy Smollett (A Maguire, 11-10 fav); 3, Spikey (J Osborne, 9-2). ALSO RAN: 25 Solidasarock (4th). 4 ran. 1¾l, 14l, 10l. J Gifford at Findon. Tote: £2.50. DF: £1.80. CSF: £3.75.

4.20 (2m ch) 1, KING CREDO (J F Titley, 7-4); 2, Around The Horn (S McNeil, 8-4 fav); 3, Dr Rocket (D Meredith, 8-1). ALSO RAN: 11-2 Rodeo Star (4th), 14 Atlaal (5th). 5 ran. NR: Nathir. 1¾l, 6l, ¾l, dist. S Woodman at Chichester. Tote: £2.70; £1.60, £1.70. DF: £1.90. CSF: £4.53.

4.50 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1, COOL RELATION (Mr A Phillips, 5-6 fav); 2, Hermes Harvest (Mr A Balding, 12-1); 3, Sandybraes (Mr R Johnson, 5-2). ALSO RAN: 8 Fit For Firing, 20 Way Of Life, 33 Tildarg (4th), 66 Inch Gale, Silver Cannon (pu), Spice Merchant. 9 ran. NR: City Entertainer. 5l, 9l. D Caro. Tote: £1.90; £1.20, £2.00, £1.10. DF: £11.30. Trio: £7.10. CSF: £10.84.

Placepot: £29.50. Quadpot: £5.00.

Yesterday's meeting at Towcester was called off because of snow.

☐ Alderbrook, the Champion Hurdle winner, is likely to return to the Flat in the Prix d'Harcourt over ten furlongs at Longchamp on Sunday.

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Berbizier keeps faith with old guard

France banking on experience for World Cup

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

FOR all the savage treatment meted out to some faithful retainers during the five nations' championship, Pierre Berbizier has remained loyal in his selection of the French squad to play in the World Cup in South Africa.

Berbizier, the French coach, dropped five of his bravest and best between the defeat by Scotland and the victory over Ireland which concluded a disappointing championship. But he insisted that he would revert to those who had performed so well in New Zealand last year and he has been true to his word.

That is partly a reaction to a situation inflicted on him by the absence of genuine young talent. Thus the squad announced in Paris yesterday includes Franck Mesnel, Louis Armary, and Marc Cecillon, the trio of over-thirties restored to the side against Ireland. Mesnel and Armary both played in the 1987 and 1991 tournaments — as, of course, did Philippe Sella.

Among the younger players ignored are the likes of Xavier Blond, the Racing flanker, and Alain Macabiau, the Perpignan scrum half. The final back-row place has gone to Arnaud Costes, from Montferrand, capped against Canada in December. The deputy to Guy Accoceberry at scrum half will be Aubin Hueber, whose club, Toulon, is still going strong in the French championships.

The main addition to the threequarters is William Techouèyres, the SBUC wing capped twice last season but overlooked this. However, he has profited from the injury which Philippe Bernat-Salles sustained against Scotland. A late run for a World Cup place made by the Toulouse centre, Philippe Carbonneau — a replacement against Ireland — has been unsuccessful.

It will be Berbizier's fervent hope that his players can rediscover the form shown in South Africa in 1993 and New Zealand in 1994, which brought them three wins and a draw from four internationals. Victories this season over Canada, Wales and Ireland scarcely fulfilled expectations and there remains only an international against Romania on April 8 in which to prepare for pool matches in South Africa against Scotland, Ivory Coast and Tonga.

For the game in Bucharest, Berbizier has changed his back row to give Costes further experience and restored Laurent Cabannes to favour. He rests Abdelatif Benazzi, Philippe Benetton and Sella, whose place at centre goes to Thierry Lacroix. A fourth change restores Philippe Gallart, who last played against England in 1994, to tight-head prop instead of Christian Califano.

Meanwhile England's World Cup squad gathered at Marlow last night for the first of four weekly training meetings. There remains some confusion about the restrictions placed on players during the final month of the domestic season: one version limiting them to two appearances, another restricting them to two league matches but permitting them to play in cup matches.

A player such as Ian Hunter, the Northampton full back, requires all the match practice he can get after a largely inactive season but his colleagues, Tim Rodber and Martin Bayfield, will be expected to rest. At least the Army, Rodber's employer, is taking an understanding view. They will pick neither him nor Rob Wainwright, of Scotland, for the Inter-Services championship.

FRANCE SQUAD: Backs: J-L Sadourny, S Viars, E Ntamack, P Saint-André (captain), P Sella, T Lacroix, F Mesnel, W Techouèyres, C Deylaud, Y Delaigue, G Accoceberry, A Hueber. Forwards: C Califano, L Armary, P Gallart, L Bénézech, J-M Gonzalez, M de Rougemont, O Merle, O Roumat, O Brouzet, L Cabannes, M Cécillon, P Benetton, A Benazzi, A Costes.

RFU change of heart, page 5

Wales look to future amid coaching crisis

THERE is irony that, at the end of this week, the Welsh Rugby Union (WRU) will launch an initiative aimed at the 1999 World Cup, while, on the same day, a special general committee meeting will determine the management for the 1995 tournament (David Hands writes).

The cart, you might think, comes before the horse on this occasion but at least the WRU, whose elite Rygbi Cymru 2000 development campaign is designed to foster talented youngsters, cannot be accused of short-term planning. It is their misfortune that this season's five nations' championship has left them in such disarray seven weeks before departure for the third World Cup in South Africa.

The resignation on Monday evening of Robert Norster, Alan Davies and Gareth Jenkins has left Welsh rugby in a familiar situation: in 1991 it was Ron Waldron who quit as coach two months before the World Cup, leaving the vacancy which Norster, as manager, and Davies filled.

The requirement now is for a stripped-down, simplified campaign aimed specifically at South Africa before Welsh rugby can draw breath and plan more than a holding operation.

Alex Evans, the Australian who has turned Cardiff into league and cup contenders this season, and Mike Ruddock, whose Swansea team won the league last season, have signified their willingness to shoulder the coaching burden for the World Cup effort.

THE loneliness of the long distance Boat Race coach ended for Robin Williams, the Cambridge chief coach, yesterday when Harry Mahon, the New Zealand national coach, took over the megaphone for the run-up to the race on Saturday (Mike Rosewell writes). Mahon had seen only videos and test results of the crew since their training camp in Banyoles in early January and Williams said yesterday: "I have not had the problem of running dry but I was really looking forward to his arrival."

Mahon flew in from New Zealand on Monday from "T-shirt and shorts" weather. Yesterday he was differently clad as Cambridge paddled a full course at a low rate into a blizzard. The blade-work was a little ragged initially but noticeably improved by the end of the outing, backing up Williams's comment that "within ten minutes he knows what to say and has an impact".

Mahon was reticent about giving an opinion of the crew, restricting himself to: "I am satisfied with their development." He compares the present crew with the Cambridge winners of two years ago and admits that "it has not got the strength or international experience of last year's crew. It is a more typical Boat Race crew".

Penny Chuter, the Oxford chief coach, has had a more comradely time, joined on a daily basis by David Lister, a fellow international coach, and supposedly accompanied one day a week by Dan Topolski, the Oxford guru, who is also acting as finishing coach, but who admits to spending "more time than expected with the crew".

Peter Haining, the world champion sculler was an onlooker. His verdict: "Cambridge flow around the finish; Oxford punch around the finish." Accurate enough.

Photograph: Hugh Routledge

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated
** all ticket match*

International match
England v Uruguay
(at Wembley, 8.0) ....

European championship
Qualifying group six
Ireland v Northern Ireland
(at Lansdowne Road, Dublin, 2.30)

Qualifying group seven
Bulgaria v Wales
(in Sofia, 5.0) ....

Qualifying Group eight
Russia v Scotland
(at Luzhniki Stadium, Moscow, 5.0)

Endsleigh Insurance League
Second division
*Bristol Rovers v Birmingham (6.0) ..

Third division
Wigan v Hereford ....

Bell's Scottish League
Third division
Ross County v Albion ....

KONICA LEAGUE OF WALES: Ebbw Vale v Inter Cardiff; Ton Pentre v Barry.

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Accrington Stanley v Barrow; Horwich v Marine. Cup: Semi-final, second leg: Bishop Auckland (4) v Matlock Town (1)

DIADORA LEAGUE: Premier division: Molesey v Yeading. Third division: Harlow v East Thurrock (7.45)

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division: VS Rugby v Gloucester. Southern division: Havant v Bashley (7.45). Midland division: Newport AFC v Bilston (7.45)

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Eppleton v Seaham Red Star, Northallerton v Murton, Peterlee v West Auckland, Shildon v Chester-le-Street.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Hallam v Thackley, Sheffield v Liversedge. Cup: Fourth round: Brigg v Belper Town

MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Buckingham Athletic v Milton Keynes

ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Southend Manor v Basildon, Eton Manor v Romford (at Barkingside)

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE (7.45): Premier division: Bideford v Torrington, Elmore v Liskeard

HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Cinderford v Shortwood, Kintbury v Abingdon

INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND ALLIANCE: [illegible] Swifts v Halesowen Harriers.

HEREWARD SPORTS UTD COUNTIES LEAGUE: Cup: Semi-final: Raunds v Northampton Spencer

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Stowmarket v Chatteris

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Southwick v Burgess Hill, Eastbourne Town v Wick, Stamco v Crowborough. John O'Hara League Cup: Quarter-final: Hailsham v Three Bridges.

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Sheppey v Dartford. First division Cup: Semi-final, first leg: Dover Athletic v Thamesmead Town

WILKINSON SWORD LEAGUE CUP: Second round: Portadown v Glenavon

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Brighton v Bristol City (7.15), Ipswich v Luton (2.0), Millwall v Crystal Palace (2.0), Oxford Utd v Portsmouth, Swindon v Tottenham; Wimbledon v Norwich (at Plough Lane 2.0). Second division: Bath v Hereford (at Keynsham FC), Birmingham v Bournemouth (7.0), Cardiff v Swansea (2.0), Cheltenham v Torquay, Exeter v Yeovil (7.0)

PONTINS LEAGUE: First division (7.0): Aston Villa v Sunderland; Leeds United v Notts County (at The Shay, Halifax); Nottingham Forest v Coventry, West Bromwich v Rotherham, Liverpool v Derby (at Southport FC). Second division: Barnsley v Port Vale (7.0), Blackpool v Leicester (7.0), Grimsby v Burnley (7.0), Manchester City v Bradford (6.45); Middlesbrough v Huddersfield (7.0); York v Sheffield Wednesday (7.0), Newcastle v Hull (at Gateshead FC, 7.0); Oldham v Mansfield (7.0)

SCHOOLS MATCHES: Centenary Shield under-18 international: Wales v Switzerland (at Notts County FC, 2.30). English Schools Premier League Trophy: Under-16: Semi-final: Essex v Sussex (at Purfleet FC, 7.0). English Schools Snickers Trophy: Under-19 quarter-finals: Luton SFC, Bedfordshire v Northgate HS, Suffolk (2.30), Preston College, Lancashire v St Benedicts, Derbyshire (at Bamber Bridge, 2.30). Under-16: Quarter-final: St Michael's, Hertfordshire v Copleston High School, Suffolk (at Woodside Stadium, 7.0). Woodward Cup: Semi-final: Burnley v Manchester (at Padiham FC, 5.30).

RUGBY UNION

Representative match
Welsh Schools v English Schools
(at Llanelli, 6.0) ....

Club match
Moseley v RAF (7.30) ....

RUGBY LEAGUE

Stones Bitter Championship
First division
Halifax v Wigan (7.30) ....
Hull v Widnes (7.30) ....

Second division
Dewsbury v Huddersfield (8.0) ....

CARLSBERG-TETLEY STUDENT CUP: Final: Bradford University v John Moores University (Liverpool) (at Headingley, 6.30).

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Birmingham v London (8.0), Thames Valley v Sheffield (8.0).

BOXING: World Boxing Organisation light-flyweight championship: Paul Weir (Irvine, holder) v Renato Ric Magramo (Phil) (at Irvine).

ROWING: Boat Race Outings: Oxford (10.30); Cambridge (11.0).

TENNIS: Vauxhall Premier Trophy: Men: Final (at Nottingham Tennis Centre).

MIDWEEK RENDEZVOUS 0171 481 4000

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LADIES

ABSOLUTELY normal 42 romantic caring slim pretty love life but need to share. Solvent, with own home. Seeks interesting, emotionally & financially secure gentleman, GSOH, no motor-racing or blood sports. Shrops/Staffs Photo app. Please Reply to Box No 4955

A lovely 29yr old female into Blue Note jazz Portishead fast cars Thai cuisine & BLT's WLTM slim good-looking male Box 4856 photo app Bristol

ARE you out there? Blonde sporty female WLTM somebody special 38-45. Photo essential. London.Reply Box No 4846

ATTENTION GENTS 2 tickets left for unattached professional men 45-55 yrs for Greece Singles executive holiday leaving Friday 14th April returning April 22nd. Further enquiries telephone Yvette 071 629 3186

ATTRACTIVE slim well-educated fit female 42 n/s seeks a male 38-45 over 5'10" with similar attributes E. Dorset. Photo please Box No 4934

A very female, female. Attractive honey blonde, warm and sincere 46 years. Enjoys the arts, golf, countryside and travel. Seeks successful gentleman 50-60's for caring and sharing. Can meet Hants/Dorset or Cheshire /Lancs Reply to Box No 4831

BEAUTIFUL affluent Indian girl 20's seeks cultured older Gent for romance. London. Box 4807

BERKS based romantic seeks tall n/s man 27-32 to share enjoyment of theatre music travel etc. Photo please. Reply to Box No 4922

COMPANION sought aged 37-45 n/s to enjoy travel theatre dining out & holidays Photo app Cheshire.Box No 4872

MIDWEEK RENDEZVOUS

Midweek Rendezvous
CALL MARGARET HARPER
on 0171 481 4000 or
Fax 0171 782 7827

LADIES

CLUB CLASS elegant attractive lady 56 with GSOH enjoys financial independence & the good life. Seeks handsome solvent clean cut professional gent 50-60 n/s impeccable dresser with bank account to match! All replies with photos will be answered.Box No 4784

CULTURED pearl 36 seeks stylish salmon to swim upstream. Tall profile app. London/S E.Reply Box 4779

DARE to care again? Professional stylish slim 5'6" ex-stewardess 39 years blonde no ties GSOH. Surrey. WLTM kind professional gentleman 40's-50's with integrity and humour who enjoys w/ends in the country and loves to travel. Photo essential.Reply Box No 4840

FAST mellowing happy with it, and now time for this west-country born London based mid 50's professional to re-think it all. Quite human underneath! Any sensitive man out there of the same age and stage who would like to join me? A challenge if you'd like one Photo please.Box No 4785

FEMALE 30 something who due to work overload has forgotten how to have fun seeks male 35-40 who will show me how to live life again. SOH honesty healthy bank balance and an interest in horse-racing an advantage. Photo app. Yorks /Lincs.Reply to Box No 4950

HOLIDAY companion sought. Mature tall fair attractive lady seeks gentleman with whom to share a happy holiday anywhere anytime mutually agreeable. All own expenses paid. Kent Reply Box No 4905

INDEPENDENT woman late 40's intelligent and attractive who also enjoys talking and listening seeks a similar man! Central London. Photo app. Please Reply to Box No 4812

LADY, attractive 56yr old, with free heart & quality outlook is searching for gentleman to share table for two, theatre or travel. Cheshire area. Please Reply to Box No 4830

LISA MINELLI lookalike, 34, prof., slim. London based would like to meet amusing, prof., sporty, irreverent hero, 34-44ish Photo app.Box No 4882

LIVELY Scots lass GSOH WLTM n/s 40+ adonis. Home counties Photo pref.Box No 4940

PRETTY, feminine, 39yo n/s woman, generous and understanding seeks complementary, loyal, romantic man. Can you play Benedict to my Beatrice? Replies with photograph answered. South-east. Box No 4968

PRETTY attractive Asian lady, 29, smart, seeks European /English professional who is well educated and with good personality for friendship and maybe to settle down London Please Reply to Box No 5029

SIX vivacious intelligent girls 40ish invite six similar like-minded guys to share a spring weekend in Bath wining dining talking & walking do you fit the bill? Write and tell us about yourselves. Reply Box No 4822

THE TIMES cannot guarantee that respondents will receive a reply when answering advertisments on this page, although we hope that as a matter of courtesy they will. When making contact with people for the first time it is advisable to meet in a public place and let a member of your family or a trusted friend know where you will be

We would advise readers and advertisers to exercise caution when giving out personal details This will be respected by genuine respondents

TIME is going by. Early 50's blue-eyed Hants lady pub/sch educated varied interests seeks kindred male spirit. Photo app. Please Reply to Box No 4816

V. attractive petite blonde 38 warm humorous adventurous intelligent curious woman seeks successful man with similar qualities London.Box No 4936

WARM-HEARTED, attractive, prof. n/s lady WLTM gentleman (40's) who enjoys theatre, (R.S.C enthusiast!!), conversation, laughter, life! May we take it from there? (E.Anglia).Reply Box No 4873

WASP. Stunning successful loving H.I.V. aids counsellor aged 52 with adult self-supporting family seeks professional caring man in London. Please enclose photo and all replies will be responded to. Box No 4862

WHERE is the good looking n/s, genuine, romantic, 36-42, male who can put the sparkle back in my eyes? Petite, attractive, 37. Caring, sensitive and uncomplicated, living in N/W Yorks. Enjoys countryside, travel, theatre, good company. Looking for a lasting relationship. Photo please. Box 4945

WILFUL blonde blue-eyed long-leggedy Kraut English born and bred graduate professional (29) seeks 1st XV Rodber /Guscott /Underwood amalgam based in London with manners wit style and a reasonable wallet (30-38). Photo preferred. Please Reply to Box No 4878

GENTLEMEN

ACADEMIC male, 56, enthusiastic, no ties, into psychotherapy, enjoys walks, talks, red wine and Italy, seeks laughter, fun, friendship, beauty and (who knows!) love with a mature woman of similar ilk, whose eyes sparkle and heart sings. Reply with photo; no desperates please. West Midlands Box No 4864

ARE you a creative, caring, sincere, positive lady looking for a similar man? I am a successful company director, (single, 40) seeking a soulmate and a spiritually rewarding relationship, with mutual enjoyment of sailing, fine wine, good food in quiet restaurants Plus occasional trips to France, India, & Caribbean. Disguised goddesses welcome. South West. Plse Reply to Box 4908

ASIAN 39yr old Moslem business man looking for similar lady up to 35 with a view to marriage any nationality. London based.Reply to Box No 4814

ATTRACTIVE independent professional man young 50 with varied interests seeks interesting attractive fun-loving n/s female (35-45) to share life's pleasures. Surrey area. Please reply with letter and photo to Box No 4858

ATTRACTIVE 37 slim v.fit professional. Unquenchable enthusiasm for life, values highly honest and integrity. Seeks slim n/s warm-hearted lady to share the blossoming of a new Spring. Berks.Reply to Box No 4848

CHESHIRE businessman 37 solvent no ties intelligent & humorous. I need someone who is caring & loyal 27-40 to share my life. Photo & tel no please ALA. Reply to Box No 4783

GENTLEMEN

AT last, this 37 year old, 6'4" company director has realised work has got to take a back seat. Surely it's not too late. My sense of humour, sense of adventure (I love all types of flying, boating & water sports) & desire for affection will no longer be suppressed by the work ethic. All that's missing now is the woman to help me enjoy this new stage in my life. I have a lovely cottage on the edge of a south coast town & it seems so empty right now. So now I need to find her. She will be lively & fun, intelligent - her own person, loving & kind. Happy at a dinner party for twenty or one for just two, she'll be the sort of person who'll think twice about replying to this ad, but will decide, well - what the hell. If that's you, send me a photograph & an address and I promise I'll write back - Romance could be just the start. Box No 4867

A 52yr old Cancerian, SW London, loves France, flying, nostalgia, classic cars, travel, theatre, country, the sea. Very romantic, honest, caring, kind, solvent, n/s with VGSOH. You hopefully slim, petite, attractive, elegant, speak some French or be continental/ Eurasian Photo app. xxxxx. Reply to Box 4633

COSMOPOLITAN affluent professional with a London base seeks cultured, elegant vivacious, attractive petite blonde, 30-40 to share outings and travel. Reply to Box No 5031

CUDDLY Yorkshire man not thick nor thin good-looking had a rough couple of years now looking for brewery heiress or any attractive lady under 38 with pots of money and country estate like mine! If none of the above then just a GSOH! Photo and details of stash! West Yorkshire area.Reply Box No 4889

CULTURED Gentleman, 56, starting distinguished career overseas, seeks quiet but passionate lady mid-thirties, any nationality, with whom to start new family life and home afresh. Box No 4868

DOCTOR early 40's unattached presentable caring. Ints. include dining travel tennis WLTM younger lady. London/home counties. Photo app. Please Reply to Box No 4871

ENIGMATIC, empathetic, educated, divorced, country professional gentleman 55 seeks refined, independent, solvent, unencumbered lady for romance / companionship & rural pursuits. Photo app. Kent /Sussex /Devon /Somerset borders. Reply to Box No 4963

GENTLEMAN divorced 46 tall handsome talented affectionate ex-head teacher now enjoying comfortable life of retirement travelling walking & music. Seeks caring n/s lady Photo app South-east. Please Reply to Box No 4999

HANDSOME, sporty, 6', n/s, 41yr old with own business in fashion. Enjoys music, travel, food, interior design, the home and much more. WLTM 28-40yr old, attractive, slim, affectionate, independent, and perhaps sporty lady. London. Photo app Reply Box No 4848

HANDSOME Gent 32 n/s 5'9". Lots of interests inc N.T. seeks attractive intelligent slim lady 28-36 for love and romance. Photo and letter guarantees reply.Home counties.Box 5053

I am 59 & 6'1". I look at what's coming & not whats gone. Smoke & drink are not my scene. I don't dwell on what might have been. Bright & happy is my way of life. To make it complete what I need is a wife. So shoot your arrows Mr. Cupid (I hope you don't think my poem is stupid)! Of you I ask a sincere letter. To help our lives to both be better. No more than 49 & slim. Perhaps you're athletic or go to gym. I hope you like living abroad in the sun & may be play golf, or perhaps just have fun. A photo is welcome it will be returned. All letters are answered (if naughty they're burned)! Box No 4835

PROFESSIONAL, slim, 6', n/s male 42 WLTM female who likes the arts, log fires, dogs and scrabble Oxon. Please Reply to Box No 4929

SPEND all or part of this summer in the South of France. English gentleman, very presentable, stylish, cultured now single, late forties offers small but exquisite villa in the hills near Grasse, to elegant, feminine, sophisticated lady who has time on her hands to enjoy all the simple pleasures in life except smoking. Magnificent views, grounds, vast pool available from June. This is a genuine invitation to bona fide respondents only with recent photo please and telephone contact. All replies answered and photos returned. Reply to Box No 4932

SPRING is sprung. Co Dir. (45 n/s WASP) visiting Southeast regularly seeks friendly lady or couple for convivial evenings. Photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 5067

STRONG minded handsome successful caring man 50 seeks attractive lady around 40 for special loving and fun times and frequent Mediterranean travel. Children welcome. Photo please reply to Box No 4641

SUCCESSFUL business gentleman early 40's unattached good-looking blue eyes 6'1" tall slim and romantic. WLTM attractive lady slim and over 5'6" between 28-40 who would like to be wined and dined and take overseas holidays. North-west Please send a photo and tel no if poss. to Box No 4851

TECHNICALLY 51 but amazingly well preserved. romantic witty Englishman good-looking and occasionally wealthy but above all modest! Photo appreciated London Please Reply to Box No 4924

UNIQUE 44yrs young successful professional gent well-travelled and educated WLTM lady 30-44 uncomplicated with nice personality I have no ties but accept that you have. Cheshire /Manchester area.Photo app. Please Reply to Box No 4861

44 year old enthusiast looking for a young-hearted, vivacious, extrovert, expressive, music-loving, risk-taking girl with a good sense of humour and the same joie de vivre to share adventures.Reply Box No 4838

MIDWEEK RENDEZVOUS

PUBLIC NOTICES

BINFIELD, FREDERICK JAMES BINFIELD late of Penge, London SE20 died there on or about 13 January 1994 (Estate about £5,000).
COURCHA nee PETTY, DORIS DIANA COURCHA nee PETTY Widow late of Cambridge died there on 25 December 1994. (Estate about £6,000).
FORD, JOHN FREDERICK FORD late of Kennington, London SE11 died at Lambeth, London SE1 on 20 July 1993 (Estate about £30,000).
GIBSON, CHARLES DOUGLAS GIBSON late of Redcar, Cleveland died there on 28 April 1993 (Estate about £50,000).
HOPKINS, LOUISE JOYCE HOPKINS, Spinster late of Cardiff, Gwent died there on 17 December 1994 (Estate about £5,000).
PARNELL, FRANCIS HERBERT PARNELL late of South Lambeth, London SW8 died at Lambeth, London SE1 on 31 October 1993 (Estate about £6,000).
REID nee O'BRIEN, EILEEN FLORENCE REID nee O'BRIEN Widow late of Beckenham, Kent died there on 12 May 1993 (Estate about £18,000)
SPARROW nee KEARNY, WINIFRED IDA SPARROW nee KEARNY Widow late of Rotherhithe, London SE16 died at Hackney, London E8 on 11th September 1994 (Estate about £15,000).
WALKER otherwise VINEER, KATHLEEN MARY WILMOT WALKER otherwise KATHLEEN MARY VINEER Spinster late of Fulham, London SW6 died there on 19 March 1994 (Estate about £6,600).
The kin of the above-named are requested to apply to the Treasury Solicitor (BV), Queen Anne's Chambers, 28 Broadway, London SW1H 9JS, failing which the Treasury Solicitor may take steps to administer the estate.

LEGAL NOTICES

BFM OFFICE EQUIPMENT LIMITED (IN ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERSHIP) NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, in pursuance of Section 48 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above-named company will be held at Arthur Andersen's offices at Abbots House, Abbey Street, Reading, RG1 3BD on 18 April 1995 at 10.15am for the purpose of having an account laid before them, showing the events leading up to the appointment of the Joint Administrative Receivers, the manner in which the administrative receivership has been conducted and the property of the company disposed of, and of hearing any explanation that may be given by the Joint Administrative Receivers. Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or be represented at the meeting. A person is entitled to vote at the meeting only if: 1. He has given to the Joint Administrative Receivers, not later than 12.00 hours on the business day before the day fixed for the meeting, details in writing of the debt that he claims to be due to him from the company, and the claim has been duly admitted. 2. There has been lodged with the Joint Administrative Receivers, any proxy which the creditor intends to be used on his behalf. DATED this 27th day of March 1995 J R HILL and A W BRIERLEY Joint Administrative Receivers

BURY OFFICE EQUIPMENT LIMITED
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act, 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held at the offices of Poppleton and Appleby, 32 High Street, Manchester M4 1QD on Thursday the 6th day of April 1995 at 12.00 noon, for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99, 100 and 101 of the said Act. Pursuant to Section 98, Subsection (2) (a) of the Act, Mr Peter Lomas of Poppleton and Appleby, 32 High Street, Manchester, M4 1QD is appointed to act as the Qualified Insolvency Practitioner who will furnish creditors with such information as they may reasonably require DATED THIS 23RD DAY OF MARCH 1995 BY ORDER OF THE BOARD. D GRUNDY DIRECTOR

CHARIOT HILL PLC
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co, situated at 30 Eastbourne Terrace, (2nd Floor), London W2 6LF, on 6th April 1995 at 12.00 for the purposes provided in Section 98 et seq. A list of names and addresses of the above company's creditors can be inspected at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co, PO Box 553, 30 Eastbourne Terrace, (2nd Floor), London W2 6LF, between the hours of 10.00am to 4.00pm on the two business days preceding the Meeting of Creditors. DATED THIS 22nd March 1995 Robert Jankel - Director.

CHRISTMAS CRAFTS LIMITED (IN ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERSHIP). NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, in pursuance of Section 48 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above-named company will be held at 180 The Strand, London WC2R 2NT on 19 April 1995 at 10.15am for the purpose of having an account laid before them, showing the events leading up to the appointment of the Joint Administrative Receivers, the manner in which the administrative receivership has been conducted and the property of the company disposed of, and of hearing any explanation that may be given by the Joint Administrative Receivers. Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or be represented at the meeting. A person is entitled to vote at the meeting only if: 1. He has given to the Joint Administrative Receivers, not later than 12.00 hours on the business day before the day fixed for the meeting, details in writing of the debt that he claims to be due to him from the company, and the claim has been duly admitted. 2. There has been lodged with the Joint Administrative Receivers, any proxy which the creditor intends to be used on his behalf. DATED this 27th day of March 1995. P R SYKES and M L McKILLOP Joint Administrative Receivers. ARTHUR ANDERSEN & CO. SC. P.O. BOX 55, 1 SURREY STREET, LONDON WC2R 2NT

EMERGENCY DEALING SERVICES LTD
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a MEETING of the CREDITORS of the above-named company will be held at: Haines Watts, 4-8 Tabernacle Street, London EC2A 4LU on 3 April 1995 at 11.30am for the purposes mentioned in sections 99 to 101 of the said Act. A list of the names and addresses of the company's creditors may be inspected free of charge at Haines Watts, 4-8 Tabernacle Street, London EC2A 4LU on the two business days preceding the date of the meeting stated above.
DATED: 20.3.95
By order of the Board
T GALGEY
Director

Excalibur Promotions Limited (IN CREDITORS VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION). THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986. In accordance with Rule 4.106 of the Insolvency Rules 1986, notice is hereby given that I, K.D. Goodman, FCA a Licensed Insolvency Practitioner of Messrs. Leonard Curtis & Co. PO Box 553, 30 Eastbourne Terrace, London W2 6LF, was appointed Liquidator of the above Company by the members and creditors on 14th March 1995. All debts and claims should be sent to me at the above address. All creditors who have not already done so are invited to prove their claims in writing to me. No further public advertisement of invitation to prove debts will be given. DATED THIS 14th March 1995 K.D. Goodman, FCA, Liquidator.

THE INSOLVENCY RULES 1986
RULE 4.106(1)
Eurosiim Services Ltd
Eurosiim Publications Ltd
In Creditors' Voluntary Liquidation
Notice is hereby given that I, Melvyn Rose of Messrs. Elliot Woolfe & Rose, Chartered Accountants, Lidora House, 280 Kingsbury Road, London NW9 0BS was appointed Liquidator of the above named Companies on 14 March 1995
Melvyn L. Rose FCA
Liquidator
[illegible] March 1995

FEMME LIMITED
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act, 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held at the offices of Poppleton and Appleby, 32 High Street, Manchester M4 1QD on Friday the 7th day of April 1995 at 12.00 noon, for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99, 100 and 101 of the said Act. Pursuant to Section 98, Subsection (2) (a) of the Act, Stephen James Wainwright of Poppleton and Appleby, 32 High Street, Manchester, M4 1QD is appointed to act as the Qualified Insolvency Practitioner who will furnish creditors with such information as they may reasonably require. DATED THIS 24TH DAY OF MARCH 1995 BY ORDER OF THE BOARD A A TAYLOR DIRECTOR.

NOTICE UNDER THE TRUSTEE ACT 1925, SECTION 27
THE NEW TANDEM SHOES PENSION AND LIFE ASSURANCE SCHEME
THE TANDEM SHOES PENSION SCHEME
Notice is hereby given Pursuant to Section 27 of the Trustee Act 1925 that above Schemes are to be wound up in the near future. Anyone who may be entitled to benefits from either Scheme, whether as a member or otherwise, and who has not already heard from the Trustees should contact them at the address shown below not later than (3 months after date of issue). c/o Harvey Ingram 20 New Walk Leicester LE1 6TX

No. 3569 of 1994
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
LEEDS DISTRICT REGISTRY
IN THE MATTER OF CATTLE'S (HOLDINGS) PLC
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated 13 February 1995 confirming the reduction of the amount standing to the credit of the Share Premium Account of the above named Company by £26,000,000 in accordance with the above mentioned Act was registered by the Registrar of Companies on 8 March 1995.
Walker Morris
Kings Court, 12 King Street.
Leeds LS1 2HL.

MANSTOCK GEOTECHNICAL CONSULTANCY SERVICES LIMITED
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act, 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held at the offices of Poppleton and Appleby, 32 High Street, Manchester, M4 1QD on Thursday 30 March 1995 at 12.00 noon, for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99, 100 and 101 of the said Act. Pursuant to Section 98, Subsection (2) (a) of the Act, Mr S Lord of Poppleton and Appleby, 32 High Street, Manchester, M4 1QD is appointed to act as the Qualified Insolvency Practitioner who will furnish creditors with such information as they may reasonably require. DATED THIS 21ST DAY OF MARCH 1995 BY ORDER OF THE BOARD MR P R HANKILOR. DIRECTOR

FINAL WORD LIMITED
(In Administrative Receivership).
REGISTERED NUMBER: 1740108 TRADING NAME: The Final Word. NATURE OF BUSINESS: D.T.P. Bureau and Typesetters. TRADE CLASSIFICATION: 10 DATE OF APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERS: 13th March 1995. NAME OF PERSON APPOINTING THE ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERS: National Westminster Bank plc. COLIN GEORGE WISEMAN & PETER ANTHONY LAWRENCE JOINT ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERS (OFFICE HOLDER NOS. 6712 & 6829) OF Booth White, 6 Raleigh House, Admirals Way, Waterside, London, E14 9SN.

00904 of 1995
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
MR JUSTICE FERRIS
Monday the 13th day of March 1995
In the matter of COURTLANDS HOTEL LIMITED
and in the Matter of The Insolvency Act 1986
UPON
(1) THE PETITION of the above named Company by its Administrators David Llewellyn Morgan and Harold Charles Wilks presented to this Court on the 14th February 1995
(ii) THE APPLICATION of the said Administrators David Llewellyn Morgan and Harold Charles Wilks dated 10th February 1995
AND UPON HEARING Counsel for the Petitioners
AND UPON HEARING the Administration Order dated the 1st August 1995 (made on Petition No. 008639 of 1991) and the evidence
IT IS ORDERED on the said Petition
(1) that the Administration Order be and the same is discharged
(2) that the said David Llewellyn Morgan and Harold Charles Wilks be released from the said office as Administrators
(3) that the said Courtlands Hotel Limited be wound up by this Court under the provisions of the Insolvency Act 1986
(4) that the said David Llewellyn Morgan and Harold Charles Wilks be appointed Liquidator of the Company
(5) that the costs of this Application be paid as an expense of the administration
AND IT IS ORDERED on the said Application dated 10th February 1995
(6) that the said Application do stand adjourned for a further hearing before the Registrar.

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986 DECOLIGHT LTD. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN Pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a MEETING of the CREDITORS of the above named Company will be held on 10 April 1995 at The Old Bakery, Lower Cower Road, Royston, Herts at 12.00 noon for the purposes mentioned in Section 99 et seq of the said Act. NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that Maurice Raymond Dorrington FIPA, of 4, Charterhouse Square, London EC1M 6EN is appointed to act as the qualified insolvency Practitioner pursuant to Section 98 (2) (a) of the said Act who will furnish creditors, free of charge, with such information concerning the Company's affairs as they may reasonably require. DATED this 22 day of March 1995. BY ORDER OF THE BOARD. ANDREW MEROLA DIRECTOR

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986 JADEAOLE LIMITED. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN Pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a MEETING of the CREDITORS of the above named Company will be held on 12th April 1995 at 4, Charterhouse Square, London EC1M 6EN at 3.30 pm for the purposes mentioned in Section 99 et seq of the said Act. NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that Maurice Raymond Dorrington FIPA, of 4, Charterhouse Square, London, EC1M 6EN is appointed to act as the qualified insolvency Practitioner pursuant to Section 98 (2) (a) of the said Act who will furnish creditors, free of charge, with such information concerning the Company's affairs as they may reasonably require. DATED this 24th day of March 1995 BY ORDER OF THE BOARD W.S. COWIE DIRECTOR

94 O/S 668
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
LEEDS DISTRICT REGISTRY
IN THE MATTER OF LEEDS CANAL BASIN (DEVELOPMENTS) LIMITED
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated 15 February 1995 confirming the reduction of the Share Capital of the above named Company from £5,000,000 to £1,875,000 in accordance with the above mentioned Act was registered by the Registrar of Companies on 17 March 1995.
Walker Morris
Kings Court, 12 King Street.
Leeds LS1 2HL.

ROBAN ENGINEERING LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN Pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co, situated at 30 Eastbourne Terrace, (2nd Floor), London W2 6LF on 5th April 1995 at 14.30 for the purposes provided in Section 98 et seq. A list of names and addresses of the above company's creditors can be inspected at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co, PO Box 553, 30 Eastbourne Terrace, (2nd Floor), London W2 6LF, between the hours of 10.00am to 4.00pm on the two business days preceding the Meeting of Creditors. Dated this 21st March 1995. R.R. Sinclair - Director

Robert Wiseman Dairies Plc
A Petition having been presented to the Court of Session on 12th January 1995 by Robert Wiseman Dairies PLC, a Company incorporated under the Companies Acts and having its Registered Office at 159 Glasgow Road, East Kilbride, Glasgow for Confirmation of Cancellation of Share Premium Account, the Court pronounced the undernoted Interlocutor on Thursday 23rd March 1995.
Edinburgh 23rd March 1995.
The Lords having heard Counsel for the Petitioners and considered the Petition along with the Report of J H Macfie, Solicitor, Edinburgh, No 9 of process; direct that the provisions of Section 136(3) to (5) shall not apply as regards the creditors of the company or any class of them; confirm the cancellation of the company's share premium account resolved on by the Special Resolution of the company dated 12th September 1994 and set forth in the Petition; direct the registration of this order and undertaking with the Registrar of Companies and on said order and undertaking being so registered, order notice thereof to be given by advertisement once in the Edinburgh Gazette and once in the "Herald" and "Times" newspapers and decern
Sgd Donald M Ross IPD
all of which notice is hereby given.
Maclay Murray & Spens
Solicitors for Petitioner
3 Glenfinlas Street, Edinburgh.

SEARCHJOINT LIMITED
(In Administrative Recievership)
REGISTERED NUMBER: 2445S167. NATURE OF BUSINESS: Holding Investment Company. TRADE CLASSIFICATION: 46. DATE OF APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERS: 13th March 1995. NAME OF PERSON APPOINTING THE ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERS: National Westminster Bank plc. COLIN GEORGE WISEMAN & PETER ANTHONY LAWRENCE JOINT ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERS (OFFICE HOLDER NOS. 6712 & 6829) of Booth White, 6 Raleigh House, Admirals Way, Waterside, London, E14 9SN.

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY
& PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES
TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THIS SECTION
PLEASE TELEPHONE
0171-782 7344 OR FAX: 0171-782 7827
Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.

هكذا من الأصل

McDonald's return will pose Ireland problems

FROM PETER BALL IN DUBLIN

A MONTH ago English thugs took advantage of lax security to wreck their country's international in Dublin and the authorities are sparing no efforts to ensure there will be no repetition for Northern Ireland's visit to Lansdowne Road this afternoon for the European championship qualifying match.

Northern Ireland have been restricted to only 200 supporters, all dignitaries or officials, and they are being corralled into one section of the stand, with the 800 surrounding seats left vacant, at a cost in lost revenue of £30,000.

Outside the ground, a police cordon will ensure that nobody gets anywhere near the match without a ticket.

These arrangements smack of attempting to shut the stable door after the horse has bolted and the same might be said of Northern Ireland's approach to the game. Their home defeats by Portugal and Ireland before Christmas have left them with little realistic hope of qualifying.

"They have to win, whereas a draw wouldn't harm us," Jack Charlton, the Ireland manager, said yesterday, an analysis that Bryan Hamilton, his opposite number accepted.

This game starts a programme of four matches which Charlton hopes will see Ireland sure of their place in the finals by the middle of June. For Northern Ireland it is their last hope.

Hamilton described the 4-0 defeat by Ireland in Belfast in November as the most hurtful experience of his career as player or manager and there is no doubt about the determination which his side are bringing to the task of avoiding a repeat.

Hamilton brought his players down here on Saturday to start preparations in earnest and yesterday's sessions were both held behind closed doors to stop any hint of his plans leaking out.

But if there are no doubts about their resolve, whether Northern Ireland are good enough to deny Charlton's team remains to be seen, although they will be strengthened by the return of their captain, Alan McDonald, who missed the first game through suspension, and they also have Jimmy Quinn available. That may make some difference.

"I expect it to be more difficult. With McDonald back they've got a guy who likes to battle. He's a good player," Charlton said "When you've got to replace two top players with two who aren't as good, it's very difficult. Think how difficult it would be for us if we were without Paul McGrath and Andy Townsend."

As it is, the absence of Lomas from midfield, Ireland's area of greatest strength, is likely to be keenly felt by Northern Ireland and deciding how to overcome that problem is likely to be one of the things which was exercising Hamilton last night.

Unless Gillespie has an inspiring day, it is also hard to see Northern Ireland setting the best back four in the British Isles any insoluble problems.

Charlton's choice was relatively straightforward once Niall Quinn had declared himself fit. Any dilemma over Roy Keane's position was resolved by Charlton's decision to stand by John Sheridan as Townsend's partner in midfield, a department where Ireland have an embarrassment of riches.

"I'd like to play Jason McAteer but John Sheridan has had some remarkable games for us," Charlton said. "You've got to make a place for him."

The only other slight question mark concerned Quinn's partner, David Kelly, of Wolverhampton Wanderers, who scored in the abandoned match against England and has finally persuaded his manager that he deserves the position.

IRELAND (4-4-2): A Kelly (Sheffield United) — G Kelly (Leeds United), P McGrath (Aston Villa), P Babb (Liverpool), D Irwin (Manchester United) — R Keane (Manchester United), J Sheridan (Sheffield Wednesday), A Townsend (Aston Villa), S Staunton (Aston Villa) — D Kelly (Wolverhampton Wanderers), N Quinn (Manchester City)

NORTHERN IRELAND: To be announced

GROUP SIX

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Portugal	4	4	0	0	14	2	12
Ireland	3	3	0	0	11	0	9
Nth Ireland	4	2	0	2	7	8	6
Austria	3	1	0	2	5	3	3
Latvia	3	1	0	2	2	6	3
Liechtenstein	5	0	0	5	1	21	0

RESULTS: Northern Ireland 4 Liechtenstein 1, Liechtenstein 0 Austria 4, Latvia 0 Ireland 3, Northern Ireland 1 Portugal 2, Latvia 1 Portugal 3, Austria 1 Northern Ireland 2, Ireland 4 Liechtenstein 0, Portugal 1 Austria 0, Liechtenstein 0 Latvia 1, Northern Ireland 0 Ireland 4, Portugal 8 Liechtenstein 0

FIXTURES: Today: Ireland v Northern Ireland, Austria v Latvia. Apr 26: Ireland v Portugal, Latvia v Northern Ireland, Austria v Liechtenstein. Jun 3: Portugal v Latvia, Liechtenstein v Ireland. Jun 7: Northern Ireland v Latvia. Jun 11: Ireland v Austria. Aug 15: Liechtenstein v Portugal. Aug 16: Latvia v Austria. Sep 3: Portugal v Northern Ireland. Sep 6: Austria v Ireland, Latvia v Liechtenstein. Oct 11: Ireland v Latvia, Austria v Portugal, Liechtenstein v Northern Ireland. Nov 15: Portugal v Ireland, Northern Ireland v Austria.

ROSS KINNAIRD

Leighton, Scotland's goalkeeper, training in wintry conditions yesterday

Stern baptism for Jackson

FROM KEVIN McCARRA IN MOSCOW

A PERIOD of apprehension in Scottish football is also proving to be an age of opportunity. The national team, which plays a European championship tie against Russia at the Luzhniki Stadium here this evening, will contain two debutants. The selection of Colin Calderwood, from Tottenham Hotspur, and Darren Jackson, of Hibernian, stems from more than just the soundness of the pair.

After an array of injuries, Craig Brown, the Scotland manager, finds himself with a squad compiled by default rather than choice. While Brown would prefer different circumstances, the situation has added an agreeable unpredictability. Apparent rank now counts for little.

John McGinlay, for instance, may only be based with Bolton Wanderers in the Endsleigh League first division, but two goals from his five international appearances have given the forward unexpected significance in the squad.

Jackson is now called upon to undergo a similarly cheering transformation. The ascent of the Hibernian forward, 28, has been delayed by his struggle to wriggle free of an unreliable temperament. He was booked 12 times last season, generally for dissent, but shows signs of weathering into prudence, even if a mischievous humour remains. Jackson identified the particular appeal of international football for him by remarking: "The referee won't know what I am saying."

Brown appreciates that the late achievement of an international cap really means much more than that. "Nothing has come easy for Calderwood," he said of the Tottenham centre half, "and he will be eager to take this chance." Nor does the manager fear that innocence is being inflicted on the defence. "Calderwood," Brown argued, "is seasoned. He has come through the divisions."

Oleg Romantsev, the Russia coach, does not have to take such great gambles. His squad come, in general, with sturdy reputations. One of the forwards will be Dmitri Radchenko, who plays for Real Racing of Santander in Spain and could become Celtic's next signing at a cost of £2.2 million. Romantsev's defence, which features two understudies, may have less glamour, but Russia do not expect to be under siege.

Scotland believe they can qualify as group runners-up even if they are beaten here. *Above all, they must hold on* to their morale.

RUSSIA (from): D Kharin; D Khlestov, Y Nikiforov, V Onopko, Y Kovtun, A Pyatnitsky, A Kanchelskis, V Karpin, I Shalimov, D Radchenko, V Radimov, V Beschastnykh, S Kiryakov.

SCOTLAND (probable): J Leighton (Hibernian) — S McKimmie (Aberdeen), C Hendry (Blackburn Rovers), C Calderwood (Tottenham Hotspur), T Boyd (Celtic) — A McLaren (Rangers) — P McStay (Celtic), G McAllister (Leeds United), J Collins (Celtic) — J McGinlay (Bolton Wanderers), D Jackson (Hibernian).

GROUP EIGHT

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Greece	4	4	0	0	12	1	12
Scotland	4	2	1	1	8	3	7
Finland	4	2	0	2	9	7	6
Russia	2	1	1	0	5	1	4
San Marino	3	0	0	3	1	10	0
Faeroe Isl	3	0	0	3	2	15	0

RESULTS: Finland 0 Scotland 2, Faeroe Islands 1 Greece 5, Scotland 5 Faeroe Islands 1, Greece 4 Finland 0, Russia 4 San Marino 0, Scotland 1 Russia 1, Greece 2 San Marino 0, Finland 5 Faeroe Islands 0, Finland 4 San Marino 1, Greece 1 Scotland 0.

FIXTURES: Today: Russia v Scotland, San Marino v Finland. Apr 26: San Marino v Scotland, Greece v Russia, Faeroe Islands v Finland. May 6: Russia v Faeroe Islands. May 25: Faeroe Islands v San Marino. Jun 7: Faeroe Islands v Scotland, San Marino v Russia. Jun 11: Finland v Greece. Aug 16: Scotland v Greece, Finland v Russia. Sept 6: Scotland v Finland, Faeroe Islands v Russia, San Marino v Greece. Oct 11: Russia v Greece, Faeroe Islands v San Marino. Nov 15: Scotland v San Marino, Russia v Finland, Greece v Faeroe Islands.

Smith stays upbeat as Wales take on uphill task

FROM RUSSELL KEMPSON IN SOFIA

PUBLICLY, Wales have not given up hope in the qualifying rounds of the European championship. Mike Smith, the manager, maintained an upbeat mood on the eve of the match against Bulgaria, the group seven leaders, in the Vasil Levski stadium here today. Privately, everybody was agreeing it was no more than an exercise in diplomatic relations.

Bulgaria, the World Cup semi-finalists, are confident. "It will be more difficult for us because the British do not forget humiliations." Dimitar Penev, the Bulgaria coach, said, in reference to their 3-0 stroll in Cardiff in December. "I expect a victory but I don't know by how many goals."

Tzanko Tzvetanov, the full back who will mark Ryan Giggs, the Wales and Manchester United winger, was equally dismissive: "Giggs is a superstar in England because the premier league defenders are all fat."

Smith recognises the limitations of his side, which is missing Ian Rush and Mark Hughes, because of injury and suspension respectively, but if Giggs is able to reproduce his club form and John Hartson, 19, the Arsenal forward, makes a strikingly productive debut, he still harbours hopes of springing a surprise.

There is also the Vinny Jones factor. The Wimbledon midfield player has brought a sense of objective to a previously listless squad. His inexplicable cult status has penetrated behind the former Iron Curtain and he has spent much of his time amid an omnipresent gaggle of autograph hunters and television interviewers.

WALES (probable): N Southall (Everton); D Phillips (Nottingham Forest), K Symons (Portsmouth), C Coleman (Crystal Palace), M Bowen (Norwich City), B Horne (Everton), V Jones (Wimbledon), G Speed (Leeds United), R Giggs (Manchester United), J Hartson (Arsenal), D Saunders (Aston Villa).

BULGARIA: B Mikhailov; I Kiriakov, P Khubchev, T Tzvetanov, I Yordanov, Z Yankov, E Kostadinov, H Stoichkov, L Penev, K Balakov, Y Lechkov.

GROUP SEVEN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bulgaria	3	3	0	0	9	1	9
Germany	3	3	0	0	7	2	9
Georgia	4	2	0	2	6	3	6
Moldavia	4	2	0	2	5	9	6
Wales	4	1	0	3	4	11	3
Albania	4	0	0	4	2	7	0

RESULTS: Georgia 0, Moldavia 1, Wales 2 Albania 0, Moldavia 3 Wales 2, Bulgaria 2 Georgia 0, Albania 1 Germany 2, Georgia 5 Wales 0, Bulgaria 4 Moldavia 1, Albania 0 Georgia 1, Moldavia 0 Germany 3, Wales 0 Bulgaria 3, Germany 2 Albania 1.

FIXTURES: Today: Georgia v Germany, Bulgaria v Wales, Albania v Moldavia. Apr 26: Germany v Wales, Moldavia v Bulgaria, Georgia v Albania. Jun 7: Bulgaria v Germany, Wales v Georgia, Moldavia v Albania. Sep 6: Germany v Georgia, Wales v Moldavia, Albania v Bulgaria. Oct 7: Bulgaria v Albania. Oct 8: Germany v Moldavia. Oct 11: Wales v Germany. Nov 15: Germany v Bulgaria, Albania v Wales, Moldavia v Georgia.

Pit-lane Python opens ministry of silly talks

MIDWEEK VIEW

SIMON BARNES

I thought I saw him more than once, stalking along the pit-lane during the grand prix in Brazil, a tall, ginger-haired fellow dressed as an army officer, saying again and again: "All right, that's enough, stop it now, stop it at once, it's getting *silly*."

This Monty Python archetype grows more solid as each day passes in the pit-lanes of power. A sport can stand being shocking or dangerous or devious, it can stand being dishonest, even downright nasty. But no sport can stand being *silly*. The bubble bursts, we stop caring, we stop watching.

The race itself was a compelling spectacle: Hill beaten at the start, pressing Schumacher, spinning off in an anguish of lost gears and opportunities.

So Schumacher won? No ... *he just finished first.* Actually he was last. So we needn't have bothered watching, need we? Sport is, in its essence, the simplest thing in the world: the winner wins and the loser loses.

But no longer. In Formula One, a race is no longer a race. It is merely the basis for negotiation to start.

Last season set the pattern. Lord knows, there were complications enough: black flags and dodgy refuelling techniques were followed by the moment when Schumacher won a race — and then lost it because the bit of wood on the bottom of his car was insufficiently thick.

Various bans and disqualifications set up a rather phoney all-to-play-for finish between Schumacher and Hill in the last race of the season. So in the end, the fastest driver in the fastest car won the race and the championship?

Er, no. The entire season of racing was decided when Schumacher drove Hill off the track: as if the Olympic marathon were decided by a rugby tackle.

Neither car finished the race. That meant Hill lost the championship and Schumacher won it. Some believed Schumacher should have been disqualified; others thought Schumacher was wonderfully ruthless. But just about everybody agreed that the race itself was irrelevant. *The present season began* with promise of high drama but it plummeted at once into a low farce. *Picture the* duel scene in *Hamlet*: Laertes slips on a banana skin and Hamlet's *tights* fall down.

The first two cars were *disqualified because the fuel* was illegal. Now the disqualified teams seek to appeal. It is soul-wearying stuff: nonsense revisited.

Last season *failed* to give us a clear script about the search for the fastest driver. *It was all arguments about* technological cheating. Formula One cannot exist without rules of mindnumbing complexity: each season's regulations come in a book as fat as the Bible and apparently written in Church Slavonic.

Essential, but it is not something we want to know about. Get the rules sorted out and let the drivers duel. But the lawyers are increasingly doing the duelling instead, and that is the *beginning of the* end.

We are sliding in an uncontrolled, backwards skid toward the gravel-trap called America's Cup. This is an event that continues to *occupy a small corner of the* sporting imagination, because in 150 years of racing, an exciting thing once happened. One boat overtook another as recently as 1983. At that historic moment, many fools declared: "Eureka! Twelve-metre yacht racing will be the new Formula One!"

But alas, Formula One is becoming the new America's Cup. Technology, cheating — and may the best lawyer win. In America's Cup, you have a race, then a protest, then a challenge to the protest committee's judgment, and you end up in court again. The racing is but a preliminary.

Sport deals in certainties, which makes it a pleasant change from life. But in Formula One, the winner is not the winner after all. So why bother watching?

There is a famous bit of sporting television in which David Coleman, intoxicated by David Hemery and British victory, brutally *emphasises the perfect irrelevance* of third place. Formula One has gone better. Next time the cars pass the chequered flag, in Buenos Aires on April 9, we can all say together: "And who *cares* who's first?"

THE TIMES COURAGE FIRST XV

COURAGE BEST WEEKLY SCORE

Abbey's Angels are this week's winning team, with a score of 690 rated points. Selected by S McCormack of Bolton, Lancashire, this side is made up entirely of second division players, including C Hall of London Irish who contributed an impressive 210 points. The winner receives two cases of Courage Best and a fully-installed BT Satellite system. The nominated club is Orrell RFC and they win five cases of Courage beer plus a football signed by the England team and a Courage Best England training shirt, which they can raffle.

In the main competition, Mr Steve Blake is still holding onto his lead from Mrs Saverimutto – but by a mere 12 points.

In the competition covering the second half of the season, however, *Mrs Howard's* 300 points this week have helped to extend her lead again, to 88 points from Mr R Homer.

THE LEADING 50 ENTRIES OVERALL

Pos	Team name	(Selector)	Week points	Cum points
1	Who Ate The Pies	Mr Steve Blake	60	4584
2	Savvy Superstars	Mrs P Saverimutto	248	4572
3	Ams Fidelis	Maj A McCubbin	410	4569
4	Fish City XV	Mr P Hyland	338	4437
5	Blue And Whites	Mr D Brook	440	4313
6	Toppers X V	P Gorring	0	4284
7	Messers Marauder	Mr Tim Messer	230	4272
8	Baby In Waiting	Mr Gary Pierce	243	4249
9	Newky Gnomes	RW Eales	108	4182
10	Gosforth To Go U	Mr I Sadd	108	4182
11	Kirsty's Dream	Ms M Carter	405	4164
12	Mels Flying XV	Mr M Horton	242	4111
13	Price Warriors	J Richards	405	3992
14	DLSP RFC	Mr M McCrum	354	3978
15	Wabe's Wanderers	Mr MC Wabe	14	3959
16	Crash Ball Viper	Mr D Edwards	80	3956
17	Bias's Giants	Mr Patrick Amertage	259	3950
18	The Welsh Exiles	Mr E G Shedherd	108	3927
19	Unbekannt	Mr D MacNally	140	3926
20	Waltham Fifteen	Mr Simon Stone	140	3925
21	Linden	Mr A Newbold	108	3924
22	Storming Normas	Mr Duncan Cross	200	3912
23	The Vico Squad	Mr AJ Pink	365	3838
24	Earwigs	F Ball	211	3836
25	The Old Town Clu	Mr A Sykes	14	3832
26	Ice Cool Evil	Ms N Dobson	164	3826
27	Pondeen	Mr JTO Jones	80	3817
28	The Random Punts	Miss LM Dawson	75	3800
29	Lawpark	M Lawrence	312	3798
30	James Third	Mr JR Lyons	244	3780
31	Frant R F C	Mr M Buckingham	462	3775
32	Byransky Best	Mr BC Graham	474	3767
33	Grimeys Gritters	Mr G Neal	80	3762
34	Super Side Steps	Mr Andrew Stockbeck	210	3761
35	Belmont	Mrs Farida McFarland	195	3737
36	S Calver XV	Mr Simon Calver	80	3732
37	Rocking Theaster	Mr G M Higgins	195	3727
38	Notts One	Mr Justin Nott	65	3725
39	Inconnu	DM Davies	177	3718
40	Wasp Swaps	Mr D Stratton-Thomsett	164	3715
41	E S Vitry	Mr T Nadin	270	3714
42	Gull Exiles 1st	Mr Richard Bayfield	106	3712
43	Newcastle Brown	GS Brown	108	3712
44	Pyle Pirates	Mr CL Barclay	108	3712
45	Dribblings	Mr M Dickson	140	3704
46	Unnamed	Anonymous	14	3703
47	Hurworthians	GR French	215	3698
48	Maxwells City	Mr Garry Millen	178	3697
49	Barneys Bowmen	Mr AK Jenkinson	65	3697
50	Fulvers Select X	DA Crawley-Boevey	260	3696

THE LEADING 30 FOR THE SECOND HALF OF THE SEASON

Pos	Team name	(Selector)	Week points	Cum points
1	Whist	Mrs E Howard	300	2321
2	Fluffy 15	Mr Richard Homer	515	2233
3	Barnes NotAndrew	Mr Steve Smith	300	2192
4	Humbug Players	Mr Mick Nicholas	178	2177
5	Morganbeaters	ML Jones	421	1967
6	Abbeys Angels	S McCormack	690	1853
7	Highbury Casuals	CJ Ormandy	295	1835
8	More Jones Boys	ML Jones	244	1813
9	Ty Coch Devils	EG Shepherd	318	1810
10	Maniacs II	Mr MJ Stoner	453	1805
11	The Army 3	Mr A Charles	385	1785
12	Hutchshire 2nd X	D Hutcheson	420	1783
13	Rams New Greats	RE March	493	1772
14	Priorstown	Mr DJ Mason	403	1770
15	Smelly Pops	Mr John Kennedy	528	1752
16	Chocaolics	J Cawthorne	425	1729
17	Chorage	Mr A Stilloe	248	1727
18	The Beasts	Mrs C Sharman	318	1722
19	The Fat Boys	D Spencer	318	1715
20	Trying Times X X	RA Broe	405	1693
21	Krabshire	B Wilson	449	1683
22	The Army 1	Mr A Charles	384	1648
23	Steves 2nd 15	Mr S Cawley	108	1627
24	Oskar's Roscoes	Rev P Smith	365	1624
25	Savvy Superstars	Mr JLR Saverimutto	248	1617
26	Teintel	Mr T Kennedy	108	1605
27	Sandy Welsh	DR Williams	468	1594
28	Bob's Tryers	Mr R Dunn	330	1562
29	Courtfield	A Poole	285	1549
30	Sotry 2	S Everard	523	1545

NOTES:

1. The *15 new players* with code numbers of 301 and above are in the second-half game only.
2. This week's tables include the scores from the Moseley/ *Newcastle* Gosforth games played a week earlier, and which resulted in a 6-3 win for the home team.
3. Any queries relating to any aspect of The Times *Courage* First XV should be addressed to the organisers at PO Box 600, Luton, LU2 0NZ, phone 0582-457444

THE SCORES FROM LAST SATURDAY'S LEAGUE GAMES AND CUMULATIVE POINTS TOTALS

	PLAYER	RATING	ACTUAL PTS	RATED PTS	CUM PTS	CUM PTS 2ND HALF
	15. FULL BACK					
	LEAGUE 1					
1	J CALLARD	2K	5	10	282	102
2	P HULL	11	0	0	55	0
3	M MAPLETOFT	4K	0	0	340	96
4	D PEARS	15	0	0	0	0
5	W KILFORD	17	0	0	85	85
6	I HUNTER	13	0	0	130	65
7	S TABERNER	15	0	0	0	0
8	J MALLINDER	13	5	65	299	130
9	A BUZZA	17	0	0	0	0
10	K OLIPHANT	6K	0	0	312	0
	LEAGUE 2					
11	R GEE	15	0	0	0	0
12	A PARKER	5K	0	0	420	80
13	R HENNESSY	19	0	0	285	0
14	D MILLARD	16	0	0	240	0
15	C DOSSETT	17	0	0	85	0
16	S MASON	6K	18	108	912	306
17	M GALLAGHER	7K	2	14	658	154
18	A TUNNINGLEY	4K	3	12	515	116
19	M JACKSON	5K	15	75	805	300
20	S SWINDELLS	4K	12	48	504	162
	14. RIGHT WING					
21	A SWIFT	10	0	0	200	80
22	D JOHN	12	0	0	60	0
23	P HOLFORD	14	5	70	420	140
24	J KEYTER	16	0	0	80	0
25	T UNDERWOOD	10	0	0	150	0
26	H THORNEYC'T	15	0	0	75	75
27	J NAYLOR	12	0	0	120	60
28	S VERBICKAS	7	0	0	105	0
29	P HOPLEY	11	0	0	165	55
30	O EVANS	12	0	0	60	0
31	B EVANS	14	0	0	0	0
32	B HANAVAN	9K	0	0	180	45
33	M CORCORAN	6K	10	60	762	72
34	T WATSON	10	0	0	0	0
35	D HANSON	12	5	60	60	60
36	D CASADO	13	0	0	65	0
37	R BYRON	14	0	0	0	0
38	M KEMP	16	0	0	0	0
39	K MORLEY	13	0	0	195	0
40	G MEREDITH	14	0	0	0	0
301	S BARDEN	13	0	0	0	0
302	D PAYNE	12	0	0	0	0
	13. OUTSIDE CENTRE					
41	P DE GLANVILLE	13	0	0	130	0
42	A SAVERIMUTTO	9	0	0	0	0
43	B MASLEN	17	0	0	0	0
44	G THOMPSON	15	0	0	240	0
45	I BATES	17	0	0	0	0
46	K MORGAN	16	0	0	0	0
47	S LANGFORD	7K	0	0	511	224
48	J BAXENDELL	17	0	0	255	85
49	D HOPLEY	14	0	0	420	0
50	A ELWINE	22	0	0	220	110
51	M CURTIS	23	0	0	0	0
52	P SEED	19	0	0	0	0
53	R HENDERSON	19	0	0	570	95
54	M SLY	23	0	0	0	0
55	J BONNEY	20	0	0	0	0
56	R WILKINSON	13	0	0	280	0
57	A FURLEY	22	0	0	330	0
58	J BUCKTON	18	0	0	270	90
59	A METCALFE	22	0	0	110	0
60	A NORTHEY	23	0	0	115	0
	12. INSIDE CENTRE					
61	J GUSCOTT	10	0	0	0	0
62	R KNIBBS	13	0	0	0	0
63	S MORRIS	18	0	0	360	0
64	W CARLING	12	0	0	60	0
65	S POTTER	13	0	0	0	0
66	N BEAL	8	0	0	0	0
67	I WYNN	14	0	0	350	70
68	G STOCKS	17	0	0	340	170
69	G CHILDS	16	0	0	320	80
70	P HODDER	15	0	0	375	75
71	M LAKEY	12	0	0	135	0
72	S GOUGH	17	8	136	391	306
73	S BURNS	14	0	0	0	0
74	R ERICSSON	15	0	0	150	0
75	A KERR	7K	20	140	396	252
76	M TETLOW	20	5	5	160	100
77	E MUSTO	21	5	105	210	105
78	S RAVENSCR'T	19	0	0	0	0
79	P WHITE	20	0	0	200	200
80	A HANDLEY	13	0	0	0	0
	11. LEFT WING					
81	S GEOGHEGAN	10	0	0	180	100
82	S CROSSLAND	12	0	0	0	0
83	T SMITH	5K	0	0	75	0
84	D O'LEARY	7	0	0	35	0
85	R UNDERWOOD	11	0	0	110	110
86	C MOIR	14	0	0	0	0
87	P HAMER	13	0	0	168	164
88	M APPLESON	18	0	0	180	0
89	S HUNTER	14	0	0	140	0
90	D COOKE	14	0	0	70	0
91	D WOODMAN	11	0	0	0	0
92	G ANDERTON	15	5	75	300	150
93	V ROLANDI	12	0	0	0	0
94	S WICHARY	9	0	0	171	0
95	E ANDERSON	14	0	0	140	140
96	T PENN	12	0	0	300	120
97	A SMALLWOOD	9	0	0	90	45
98	P HARRISS	12	0	0	300	60
99	R THOMPSON	13	0	0	280	65
100	S GREENHALGH	16	0	0	80	80
304	D POWIS	14	0	0	0	0
305	N ROBINSON	14	0	0	0	0
	10. STAND OFF					
101	M CATT	10	0	0	250	0
102	M TAINTON	2K	11	22	330	84
103	L OSBORNE	10	5	50	260	200
104	P CHALLINOR	7K	0	0	546	189
105	J HARRIS	2K	12	24	520	65
106	P GRAYSON	3K	9	27	432	108
107	G AINSCOUGH	6K	15	90	155	90
108	P TURNER	3K	5	15	275	93
109	R ANDREW	2K	6	12	232	35
110	J STABLER	5K	0	0	50	0
111	B ANGELL	6K	0	0	375	75
112	I BARCLAY	17	6	102	510	187
113	G COBBE	22	0	0	572	308
114	M WALKER	5K	0	0	370	75
115	S HODGKINSON	8K	0	0	486	45
116	I CHANDLER	8K	0	0	45	0
117	N CARROLL	12	0	0	36	36
118	A LEE	13	9	117	416	117
119	R PETYT	10	0	0	80	0
120	N RYAN	24	0	0	720	264
	9. SCRUM HALF					
121	I SANDERS	16	0	0	80	0
122	K BRACKEN	13	0	0	0	0
123	B FINLEY	15	0	0	0	0
124	R KITCHIN	18	5	90	90	90
125	A KARDOONI	19	0	0	95	0
126	M DAWSON	16	0	0	160	80
127	D MORRIS	22	0	0	120	80
128	C SAVERIMUTTO	22	0	0	0	0
129	S BATES	16	0	0	80	80
130	J WRIGLEY	14	0	0	0	0
131	M DOUGLAS	22	0	0	550	0
132	C O'TOOLE	20	0	0	115	0
133	R SAUNDERS	18	0	0	95	0
134	K TROUP	23	0	0	483	0
135	G BECCONSALL	20	0	0	0	0
136	S DOUGLAS	14	0	0	140	140
137	A ROYER	24	0	0	0	0
138	B DAVIES	18	0	0	0	0
139	D SCULLY	16	0	0	128	0
140	S WRIGHT	25	0	0	375	250
	1. LOOSE HEAD PROP					
141	D HILTON	33	0	0	0	0
142	A SHARP	41	0	0	0	0
143	A WINDO	30	0	0	0	0
144	J LEONARD	35	0	0	0	0
145	G ROWNTREE	37	0	0	0	0
146	M HYNES	40	0	0	0	0
147	P WINSTANLEY	38	0	0	114	0
148	P SMITH	46	0	0	0	0
149	G HOLMES	37	0	0	0	0
150	P LANCASTER	44	0	0	0	0
151	G TREGALIS	49	0	0	0	0
152	C BURNS	44	0	0	0	0
153	N DONOVAN	33	0	0	0	0
154	A STEWART	45	0	0	0	0
155	M LINNETT	30	0	0	180	0
156	M FRASER	39	0	0	0	0
157	M FREER	46	0	0	0	0
158	R ANDREWS	37	0	0	0	0
159	R SZABO	36	0	0	0	0
160	S PETERS	39	0	0	0	0
306	F WISEMAN	44	0	0	0	0
307	R FULLER	36	0	0	0	0
	2. HOOKERS					
161	G DAWE	34	0	0	0	0
162	N REGAN	40	0	0	200	0
163	D KEARSEY	35	0	0	0	0
164	B MOORE	35	0	0	175	0
165	R COCKERILL	35	0	0	0	0
166	A CLARKE	40	0	0	0	0
167	T REDMOND	39	0	0	0	0
168	S DIAMOND	33	0	0	0	0
169	K DUNN	38	0	0	0	0
170	S MITCHELL	31	0	0	0	0
171	D ADDLETON	45	0	0	0	0
172	A MOFFAT	47	0	0	0	0
173	R KELLAM	39	0	0	0	0
174	L MAIR	42	0	0	0	0
175	D BALL	36	0	0	0	0
176	A HETHERTON	33	0	0	495	330
177	D WEST	28	0	0	280	140
178	G BOTTERMAN	41	5	205	205	205
179	T GARNETT	37	0	0	185	0
180	M HAYTON	45	0	0	0	0
308	M DIXON	35	0	0	0	0
	3. TIGHT HEAD PROP					
181	V UBOGU	37	0	0	0	0
182	D HINKINS	41	0	0	0	0
183	A DEACON	32	0	0	0	0
184	A MULLINS	39	0	0	0	0
185	D GARFORTH	35	0	0	0	0
186	C ALLEN	40	0	0	0	0
187	J CUNDICK	44	0	0	0	0
188	A SMITH	40	0	0	0	0
189	I DUNSTAN	37	0	0	185	0
190	D RUSBY	46	0	0	0	0
191	R HARDWICK	38	0	0	0	0
192	S RIGBY	40	0	0	0	0
193	G HALPIN	36	0	0	190	0
194	P BURNELL	42	0	0	0	0
195	N WEBBER	45	0	0	0	0
196	P V'VLIET	32	0	0	320	160
197	A JACKSON	36	0	0	0	0
198	S WILSON	38	0	0	190	190
199	E McMAIN	39	0	0	0	0
200	M BECKETT	38	0	0	0	0
	4. LOCK RH					
201	N REDMAN	30	0	0	0	0
202	S SHAW	37	0	0	0	0
203	R WEST	41	0	0	0	0
204	A SNOW	30	0	0	0	0
205	W JOHNSON	32	0	0	320	0
206	N EDWARDS	36	0	0	0	0
207	C COOPER	37	0	0	0	0
208	D BALDWIN	31	0	0	155	0
209	R KINSEY	35	0	0	175	0
210	J DIXON	34	0	0	0	0
211	J HYDE	48	0	0	0	0
212	P O'NEIL	46	0	0	0	0
213	C HALL	42	5	210	210	210
214	A NISBET	40	0	0	0	0
215	G WATSON	38	0	0	0	0
216	J FOWLER	46	0	0	0	0
217	D HINDMARCH	48	0	0	0	0
218	M LANGLEY	49	0	0	0	0
219	S CROFT	40	0	0	0	0
220	P WHITE	48	0	0	240	0
	5. LOCK LH					
221	A REED	38	0	0	0	0
222	A BLACKMORE	35	0	0	0	0
223	D SIMS	36	0	0	180	0
224	B DAVISON	40	0	0	0	0
225	N POOLE	34	0	0	0	0
226	M BAYFIELD	32	0	0	0	0
227	C CUSANI	40	0	0	0	0
228	R McCARTNEY	39	0	0	0	0
229	N HADLEY	32	0	0	0	0
230	K WESTGARTH	45	0	0	0	0
309	J FOWLER	32	5	160	320	320
231	R MACKIE	37	0	0	0	0
232	J TAYLOR	35	0	0	0	0
233	A HIGGINS	36	0	0	180	0
234	R SCOTT	40	0	0	0	0
235	S LLOYD	35	0	0	0	0
236	C ARCHER	40	0	0	400	0
237	C GRAY	42	0	0	0	0
238	M BURROW	44	0	0	0	0
239	D FALKINGHAM	46	0	0	0	0
240	N ALLOTT	48	0	0	0	0
310	M BRIGHT	38	0	0	0	0
	6. BLIND SIDE FLANKER					
241	S OJOMOH	21	0	0	0	0
242	I PATTEN	24	0	0	120	0
243	P GLANVILLE	27	0	0	0	0
244	T COKER	26	0	0	0	0
245	J WELLS	24	0	0	0	0
246	P WALTON	22	0	0	0	0
247	P MANLEY	28	0	0	0	0
248	M KENRICK	18	0	0	0	0
249	M GREENWOOD	27	5	135	270	135
250	D MITCHELL	33	0	0	165	165
251	L CROFTS	34	0	0	0	0
252	G RUSSELL	34	0	0	0	0
253	J SHARKEY	29	0	0	0	0
254	I MORRISON	32	0	0	160	0
255	R POLL	29	0	0	145	0
256	M CORRY	20	0	0	200	0
257	N BERRY	30	0	0	0	0
258	J GREEN	28	5	140	700	280
259	P STEWART	32	0	0	160	0
260	D BLYTH	24	0	0	0	0
311	P BRONS	24	5	120	120	120
312	D WRIGHT	25	0	0	0	0
	7. OPEN SIDE FLANKER					
261	J HALL	23	0	0	230	0
262	D EVES	20	0	0	500	0
263	I SMITH	28	0	0	0	0
264	R JENKINS	27	0	0	0	0
265	N BACK	19	0	0	0	0
266	D MERLIN	29	0	0	0	0
267	S BEBBY	28	0	0	0	0
268	N ASHURST	30	0	0	450	150
269	L DALLAGLIO	27	0	0	675	270
270	A BROWN	29	0	0	395	145
271	J HORROBIN	32	0	0	160	0
272	I ASHTON	33	0	0	330	165
273	P NEARY	29	0	0	0	0
274	I DIXON	30	0	0	0	0
275	M ORD	25	0	0	0	0
276	N FRANKLAND	26	0	0	0	0
277	G REES	33	0	0	0	0
278	R HILL	16	0	0	80	80
279	J GRIFFITHS	34	0	0	0	0
280	P BUCKTON	32	0	0	330	0
313	B ROBINSON	24	0	0	0	0
	8. NO 8					
281	B CLARKE	14	0	0	70	0
282	C BARROW	21	0	0	0	0
283	M NICHOLLS	22	0	0	0	0
284	C SHEASBY	20	0	0	200	0
285	D RICHARDS	18	0	0	0	0
286	T RODBER	16	0	0	160	80
287	D CLEARY	15	0	0	0	0
288	C VYVYAN	22	0	0	440	0
289	D RYAN	19	0	0	95	0
290	M WATSON	20	0	0	300	0
291	K HICKEY	16	0	0	0	0
292	M GREATOREX	21	0	0	0	0
293	C BIRD	17	0	0	255	255
294	D LECKIE	22	0	0	0	0
295	W HART	22	0	0	0	0
296	R ARNOLD	15	0	0	270	180
297	M BRADLEY	16	0	0	80	0
298	A DIPROSE	19	0	0	285	95
299	M SOWERBY	27	0	0	0	0
300	S BEELEY	29	0	0	145	0
314	R WAINWRIGHT	14	0	0	0	0
315	S OWEN	21	0	0	0	0

COURAGE CLUBS CHAMPIONSHIP

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RUGBY WORLD CUP 1995

IN BRIEF

Conner's battle wagers on two fronts

DENNIS CONNER, the master yachtsman of the America's Cup, was fighting on two fronts yesterday to avoid being knocked out of the semi-finals. The first was a race to get his *Stars & Stripes* challenger to the start line off San Diego in time to meet Bill Koch's women's crew on *Mighty Mary*. The second battle, also against Koch, this time over a change of keel on Conner's yacht, was due to be heard in the protest room last night.

The damage that forced Conner to retire on Sunday from the race against Kevin Mahaney's *Young America* proved more serious than at first envisaged and substantial changes to a yacht are usually allowed only at the end of each round of racing. Koch, whose yacht is tied in second place with *Stars & Stripes* in the defender finals, feels that, if Conner's team did not build its boat strong enough, then bad luck.

Jet-set Wilkinson

Tennis: Chris Wilkinson, the Great Britain No 3, lost to Gary Henderson in the opening rubber of the semi-final of the Vauxhall Premier Trophy between Royal Berkshire Premier and SSI Matchpoint Bramhall in Nottingham yesterday, but still faces some frantic cross-channel travel to fulfil commitments in Poitiers (in a satellite tournament this morning) and in Nottingham (in the final this afternoon) as Royal Bershire, the holders, won the two remaining rubbers. Paul Hand beat Mike Wyeth to level the scores then Wilkinson and Hand beat Henderson and Wyeth.

Olympic threat

Cycling: Great Britain's planned entry of 24 men and women for the Olympic Games in Atlanta next year is under threat after a shortfall in the Sports Council's 1995 grant to the British Cycling Federation. The federation had asked the Sports Council for £180,000 but has received only £60,000.

Records raised

Cricket: Alec Stewart, the captain of Surrey, raised a county record £202,187 during his benefit last season. Hugh Morris, his counterpart at Glamorgan, also reaped a club record, of £118,837.

Ceron and Moneghetti promise fast times for marathon

World's best get set to deliver race of the year

David Powell talks to last year's winner and the man who stands between him and another triumph

THE NutraSweet London Marathon champion and his main challenger for the title on Sunday were introduced to the media by David Bedford, the elite field director, yesterday as "the best two marathon runners in the world, no question about that". Changed days from 1992 when, in their only previous meeting over the distance, Dionicio Ceron and Steve Moneghetti were hardly noticed at the Barcelona Olympic marathon.

"That was a great one, wasn't it?" Moneghetti recalled. "I got the victory because I finished 48th." He and his coach had miscalculated his training and diet and Moneghetti went in to the race dehydrated.

Ceron dropped out at 22 miles. "I don't know why exactly," Ceron said. "I lost my mind." Both men can afford to make light of the experience now. Depending on which expert panel you prefer, either Ceron or Moneghetti was the world No 1 in 1994.

Ceron, from Mexico, was the choice of *Track and Field News*. Moneghetti, from Australia, was preferred by *Athletics International*. Ceron's victory in London last year was his fourth in a row, though he has lost one since due to injury; Moneghetti won the 1994 Tokyo and Commonwealth Games marathons.

When it came to the critical question yesterday of how fast each thought he might run on Sunday, there was no coyness. If conditions are perfect, Ceron fancies himself to beat Belayneh Dinsamo's world best of 2hr 06min 50sec. Moneghetti settled for 2hr 07min 30sec.

Add two minutes for adverse weather and, either way, London seems sure, again, to witness one of the marathons of year. Moneghetti is confident that he has prepared well enough to prevent Ceron from becoming the first man to win twice in London. He has had five weeks at altitude and has run close to his best time for 5,000 metres.

"The speed component is there and I have got the strength from the work I did at altitude," Moneghetti said. Unusually for a marathon runner, his training hardly changes from week to week. Chris Wardlaw, his coach, filled in the details:

"Everything is chucked into one week," Wardlaw said. "A hill session, a track session, a high aerobic threshold ten-miler and two long runs. The week has got that pattern for ever and a day.

"It has not got the longer intervals which the Poms love. We rejected them because we think that is what causes injury." Moneghetti has had ten years of almost injury-free running.

Ten years. Few marathon runners last so long. Moneghetti's first marathon was in the 1986 Commonwealth Games. He had been chosen for the 10,000 metres but, because Australia had one place unfilled, was allowed to take it.

In the holding room before the race, Moneghetti began to doubt his wisdom. "They showed a video of the Swiss girl [Gabriel Andersson-Scheiss] staggering to the finish of the world championships," he recalled. "I had never covered the distance and the last person I saw before I went out was someone all over the track. It started me wondering if that would be me." He finished third.

Moneghetti has made a significant contribution to Australian sport. He was commissioned by the state of Victoria to produce the Moneghetti Report into school sport. As a result of his work, physical education is now part of the curriculum.

"You [Britain] are going through the process now that we had prior to our committee being formed," Moneghetti said. "We had a senate review that found children were becoming unhealthy and not as active as we wanted. Victoria was the first state to do something about it and I was the chair."

Described by Wardlaw as "articulate and without a hint of arrogance," Moneghetti works, part time, as a consultant to the state education department. Not that consultation always produces results.

Pat Clohessy, Wardlaw's former coach, was consulted about the best time to stage the marathon at the 2000 Olympics in Sydney. "He told them the weather is best at 7am and they decided to put it on at 4pm," Moneghetti said. "At least they asked."

Seven of Moneghetti's 12 marathons have been championships, an unusually high ratio of races for honour against commercial appearances. He will be 37 come the Sydney Olympics and expects Atlanta 1996 to be his last. A medal there is the one thing that he wants above all else, even the $205,000 (£135,500) for a world best on Sunday.

NutraSweet LONDON MARATHON '95 IN ASSOCIATION WITH BUPA

In *The Times* today: a 12-page guide to the London Marathon

DENZIL McNEELANCE

Moneghetti warms up yesterday to challenge Ceron for his London Marathon title

RADIO CHOICE

Ideal Holmes show closes

The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes. *Radio 4. 2.00pm.*

"Thank you very much; it's been fascinating!" With these words, Michael Williams's Dr Watson brings down the curtain on a remarkable undertaking — the dramatisation of all 56 Sherlock Holmes short stories. I will echo the good doctor's sentiments on behalf of my fellow Baker Street fans. From time to time, I may have been acerbic about the liberties taken with the Conan Doyle texts, but the essence of the tales was only rarely diluted. I can even forgive adapter Bert Coules for bringing on all the leading characters (Moriarty excepted) to make their curtain calls. Applauding them, and particularly Clive Merrison's Holmes, made my hands sore.

The Home Front. *Radio 4. 11.00pm.*

Angus Calder's compilation of quotes from the Mass Observation archives, newspapers and radio broadcasts, begins with the years 1938 and 1939 when *These Foolish Things* was one of the hit songs. Foolish or ill-advised things were also what some of the mass observers said. "The time for anxiety has passed," proclaims George VI when Chamberlain returns from Munich. The snooty woman who has taken in evacuees notes their "dough-coloured" faces and concludes that livestock must have frightened their pregnant mothers. As for the arrival of West Indian cricketers, somebody says: "I'm always pleased when Negroes get on in sport." To which somebody else adds: "I prefer them to Jews!".

Peter Davalle

RADIO 1

FM Stereo. **4.00am** Bruno Brookes **6.30** Steve Wright **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00** Lisa I'Anson including at **12.30-12.45pm** Newsbeat **2.00** Nicky Campbell **4.00** Clive Warren and at **5.30-5.45** Newsbeat **7.00** Evening Session **9.00** Bits from Last Week's Radio **10.00** Mark Radcliffe **Midnight** Lynn Parsons

RADIO 2

FM Stereo. **6.00am** Martin Kelner **6.15** Pause for Thought **7.30** Sarah Kennedy **9.15** Pause for Thought **9.30** Ken Bruce **11.30** Jimmy Young **2.00pm** Gloria Hunniford **3.30** Ed Stewart **5.05** John Dunn **7.00** Jim Lloyd **8.00** Ralph McTell Presents **8.30** On Sussex Hills (1/2) **9.00** Black Voices **9.30** Nigel Ogden **10.30** The Jamesons **12.05am** Colin Berry **3.00** Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports, including at **5.45** Wake Up to Money **6.00** The Breakfast Programme incl at **6.55** and **7.55** Racing Preview **8.35** The Magazine, incl at **10.35** Euronews; **11.15** Natural History **12.00** Midday with Mair, incl at **12.34pm** Liz Barclay with Moneycheck **2.05** Ruscoe on Five: Football: Republic of Ireland v Northern Ireland **4.00** John Inverdale Nationwide **5.00** European Championship Football: Russia v Scotland **7.00** News Extra, incl at **7.20** sport **7.35** Gary Lineker's Football Night: England v Uruguay **10.05** News Talk **11.00** Night Extra, incl at **11.45** The Financial World Tonight **12.05am** After Hours **2.05** Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am Maurice Dee and Carol McGiffin **10.00** Scott Chisholm **1.00pm** Anna Raeburn **3.00** Tommy Boyd **7.00** Samantha Meah and Sean Bolger **10.00** Caesar the Geezer **1.00am** Wild Al Kelly

WORLD SERVICE

All times in **BST**. **4.30am** BBC English **4.45** Fruhmagazin **5.00** Newsdesk **5.30** *The Ghost's Bedroom* **5.45** Country Style **6.00** Morgenmagazin **6.30** Europe Today **7.00** News **7.15** The World Today **7.30** Meridian **8.00** News **8.15** *The Ghost's Bedroom* **8.30** World of Music **9.00** News **9.10** Words of Faith **9.15** Miles Kington **9.30** Megamix **10.00** News **10.05** Business **10.15** Country Style **10.30** Contemporaries of Christ **10.45** Sport **11.00** News **11.01** Omnibus **11.30** BBC English **11.45** Mittagsmagazin **12.00** Newsdesk **12.30am** Meridian **1.00** News **1.10** Words of Faith **1.15** New Ideas **1.35** What is..? **1.45** Sport **2.00** News **3.05** Outlook **3.30** The Inseperable Twins **3.45** Good Books **4.00** News **4.15** BBC English **4.30** Aktuell **5.00** News **5.15** BBC English **6.00** News and Business **6.15** The World Today **6.30** Aktuell **7.00** Newsdesk **7.30** Omnibus **8.00** News **8.05** Outlook **8.30** Europe Today **9.00** News **9.10** Words of Faith **9.15** The World Today **9.30** Assignment **10.00** News **11.00** News and Business **11.15** Sport **12.00** Newsdesk **12.30am** Multitrack: X-Press **1.00** News **1.15** The Greenfield Collection **2.00** News **2.05** Outlook **2.30** Waveguide **2.40** Book Choice **2.45** Farming **3.00** Newsdesk **3.30** Sport **4.00** News **4.15** Sport

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Nick Bailey **9.00** Henry Kelly **12.00** Susannah Simons **2.00pm** Lunchtime Concerto **3.00** Jamie Crick **6.00** Classic Reports **7.00** Gardening Forum (r) **8.00** Evening Concert **10.00** Michael Mappin **1.00am** Mark Griffiths

VIRGIN

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono's Breakfast Show **9.00** Richard Skinner **12.00** Graham Dene **4.00pm** Wendy Lloyd **7.00** Paul Coyte **11.00** Nick Abbot **2.00-6.00am** Janey Lee Grace

RADIO 3

6.30am Open University: *Maths: Transforming Graphs*
6.55 Weather
7.00 On Air: Telemann (Concerto in D for three trumpets and two oboes); Sibelius (The Oceanides, Op 73); Janáček (Sinfonietta); Offenbach (Overture: Le voyage dans la lune); Brahms (Ruhe, Süssliebchen, Op 33 No 9); Haydn (Trumpet Concerto in E flat)
9.00 Composer of the Week: Pierre Boulez at 70. Le marteau sans maitre (Elizabeth Laurence, mezzo); Improvisation sur Mallarmé II, Pli selon pli (Phyllis Bryn-Julson, soprano); Dérive I (Ensemble InterContemporain under the composer)
10.00 Midweek Choice: Stravinsky (Greeting Prelude; Concerto in E flat, Dumbarton Oaks); Scarlatti, arr Tausig (Pastorale; Capriccio); Berlioz (The Shepherds' Farewell, L'enfance du Christ); Mozart (Piano Sonata in A); Caldara (Alma del core); Sibelius (Tapiola); Debussy (Trois chansons de Bilitis); Mendelssohn (String Quartet in E flat, Op 44 No 3)
12.00 Ulster Orchestra under Grant Llewellyn. Suk (Scherzo fantastique); Janáček (Suite for strings); Dvořák (The Wood Dove) (r)
1.00pm Raphael Piano Trio: Haydn (Piano Trio in E flat); Mendelssohn (Piano Trio in C minor, Op 66) (r)
2.00 Schools: Together: An Assembly for Schools **2.20** Time and Tune: Music Course 2 — Dig It **2.40** Drama Workshop
3.00 Record Review: *Building a Library*: A Rafael Kubelik survey by Jonathan Swain (r)
4.00 Choral Evensong: Live from the Cathedral and Abbey Church of St Alban, Hertfordshire
5.00 The Music Machine: With Tommy Pearson
5.15 In Tune: With Natalie Wheen
6.00 Rush Hour Concert: Richard Baker introduces the first concert of the spring season, featuring Scarlatti, Mozart, Ravel and Chick Corea
7.00 In Tune: Natalie Wheen presents part two. Schubert (Quartettsatz in C minor)
7.30 BBC Symphony Orchestra under Simon Bainbridge. Debussy (Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune); Simon Bainbridge (Ad Ora Incerta — Four Orchestral Songs from Primo Levi, first performance); **8.20** The Grapes of Roi, by David Pownall with Nigel Hawthorne as King George III; **8.40** Tchaikovsky (Manfred Symphony: BBC SO under Alexander Lazarev)
9.50 Diary of a Composition by Simon Bainbridge
10.10 Young Artists' Forum: Anna Markland plays excerpts from the 1994 series
10.45 Night Waves in New York: Jonathan Miller directs Debussy and Placido Domingo is in the pit for Puccini at the Metropolitan Opera in New York
11.30-12.30am Ensemble: Gould Piano Trio. Mozart (Piano Trio in E); Shostakovich (Piano Trio No 2)
1.00-1.30 Night School: Scene on Radio — Writing for Radio competition: the winning entry

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast **6.00** News Briefing **6.03** Weather **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** Prayer for the Day **6.30** Today incl **7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30** News **7.25, 8.25** Sport **7.45** Thought for the Day **8.40** Yesterday in Parliament **8.58** Weather
9.00 News 9.05 Midweek: With *Times* columnist Libby Purves and Michael Praed
10.00-10.30 News; Gosling on Main Street (FM only): A study of H.J. Heinz's genius
10.00 Daily Service (LW only)
10.15 Something Understood (LW only): A new spiritual anthology
10.30 Woman's Hour: Introduced by Jenni Murray
11.30 Gardeners' Question Time: Questions from Merseyside horticultural societies (r)
12.00 News; You and Yours, with Tasneem Siddiqi
12.25pm The Chronicles of Clovis: Clovis and the Russian Princess (4/6) **12.55** Weather
1.00 The World at One: With Nick Clarke
1.40 The Archers 1.55 Shipping Forecast
2.00 News; The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes: The Retired Colourman. See Choice
2.45 Treasure Islands: Michael Rosen looks at the anarchic characters of popular children's writer/illustrator Colin MacNaughton
3.00 News; The Afternoon Shift: With Daire Brehan
4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope: Brian Sibley reads a new biography of Katharine Hepburn
4.45 Short Story: Low Lights. Oona Beeson reads Carol Ann Fraser's story
5.00 PM, with Linda Lewis and Hugh Sykes **5.50** Shipping Forecast **5.55** Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 Counterpoint: Final of the music quiz (r)
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
7.20 The Art of Travel: American writer Paul Bowles, who has lived in Tangier since 1940, remembers a key journey around North Africa
7.45 Medicine Now: With Geoff Watts (r)
8.15 Costing the Earth: Mark Whittaker starts a new series by looking at attempts by local communities in Britain and the United States to turn the buzz words of "sustainable development" into reality
8.45 Opera House: The conductor Jane Glover visits La Scala in Milan
9.30 Kaleidoscope (r) **9.59** Weather
10.00 The World Tonight, with Isabel Hilton
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Gulf. Paul Panting reads Robert Westall's story (3/5)
11.00 The Home Front (r). See Choice
11.30-12.00 The Crusader Chronicles (FM only): On his deathbed, Walter Krobbe tells the story of the First Great Crusade. With Hugh Grant, Michael Aldridge, Chris Lang and Andy Taylor (r)
11.30 Today in Parliament (LW)
12.00-12.43am News incl **12.27** Weather **12.33** Shipping Forecast **12.43** As World Service (LW only)

RADIO 1: FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2: FM-88-90.2. RADIO 3: FM-90.2-92.4. RADIO 4: 198kHz/1515m; FM-92.4-94.6; LW 198. RADIO 5: 693kHz/433m; 909kHz/330m. LONDON RADIO: 1152kHz/261m; FM 97.3. CAPITAL: 1548kHz/194m; FM-95.8. GLR: FM 94.9; WORLD SERVICE: MW 648kHz/463m; LW 198Khz (12.45am-5.55am). CLASSIC FM: FM-100-102. VIRGIN: MW-1215, 1197, 1242 kHz. TALK RADIO: MW 1089, 1053kHz. Listings compiled by Peter Dear, Gillian Maxey

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

Dealer West **North-South game** **Teams**

North:
♠ A 10 8 3
♥ A K 10 7 3
♦ 5 2
♣ K 4

West:
♠ 6 5
♥ 4 2
♦ K Q 8 4 3
♣ Q J 7 5

East:
♠ 9 7
♥ J 6
♦ J 7 6
♣ A 10 9 8 6 2

South:
♠ K Q J 4 2
♥ Q 9 8 5
♦ A 10 9
♣ 3

This hand occurred in the team *tournament* at Crans-sur-Sierre in March.

W	Gordon N	E	Schapiro S
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♦ (1)
Pass	4♣ (1)	Pass	4♦ (2)
Pass	4♥ (1)	Pass	4 NT
Pass	5♥ (3)	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

Contract: Six Spades by South. Lead: King of diamonds

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN
BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

(1) Cue bids. (2) Described by Boris Schapiro as "lead inhibiting". (3) Showing two aces.

Despite Schapiro's attempt to stop a diamond lead, the grimly determined West led the king of diamonds. Just as well, as now, after drawing trumps, declarer could get a club away on the long heart before conceding a diamond. If West had led the queen of clubs, the slam would have been defeated.

Notice that Six Hearts is laydown: the discard on the fifth spade enables North to get rid of his last diamond, before setting up a club ruff for his twelfth trick. This hand illustrates a theme that Patrick Jourdain has developed for his BOLS tip, "Consider the discard". On this hand, if South had supported hearts at his second turn, North would have been able to appreciate the significance of a discard from his hand on South's long spade. (When South shows heart support and slam ambition, he is likely to have at least five spades).

At the other table, Ronnie Rubin, my partner, opened a distinctly avant-garde weak Two Diamonds on the West hand. After Two Hearts by North and Three Diamonds by me, North-South stopped in Four Hearts.

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Beating the best

Sir Stuart Milner-Barry, chess correspondent of The Times from 1938 to 1945, who died at the weekend, could hold his own with the best.

In games from my continuing tribute to him today, he defeats Harry Golombek, his successor as chess correspondent at *The Times*, and draws with the mighty Capablanca, who was world champion from 1921 to 1927.

White: Sir Stuart Milner-Barry
Black: Harry Golombek
Paignton 1955

Caro-Kann Defence

1	e4	c6
2	Nf3	d5
3	e5	c5
4	b4	cxb4
5	a3	bxa3
6	Nxa3	Nc6
7	Be2	Bg4
8	d4	e6
9	0-0	Nge7
10	c3	Nf5
11	Qd3	Be7
12	h3	Bxf3
13	Qxf3	h5
14	Bd3	g6
15	Nc2	Rc8
16	Bd2	Qd7
17	Ne3	Kf8
18	g3	a6
19	Ng2	Kg7
20	Nf4	Nh6
21	Kg2	Na7
22	g4	h4
23	Ne2	Nb5
24	Qe3	Na3
25	f4	Nc4
26	Bxc4	dxc4
27	Kh2	Qc6
28	Rf2	Kf8
29	Rg1	Ke8
30	f5	exf5
31	g5	f4
32	Nxf4	Nf5
33	Qe1	Qc7
34	Nd5	Qd8
35	Nf6+	Kf8
36	Qe4	Rc6
37	Rxf5	gxf5
38	Qxf5	Bxf6
39	gxf6	Qd5
40	Qg4	Ke8
41	Qg7	Rb6
42	Qxh8+	Kd7
43	Qxh4	Rb2
44	Rg2	a5
45	Qg4+	Black resigns

White: Milner-Barry
Black: Capablanca
Vienna 1939

Sicilian Defence

1	e4	c5
2	Nf3	d6
3	d4	cxd4
4	Nxd4	Nf6
5	Nc3	g6
6	Be2	Bg7
7	Be3	Nc6
8	0-0	0-0
9	Nb3	Be6
10	f4	Na5
11	f5	Bc4
12	Nxa5	Bxe2
13	Qxe2	Qxa5
14	g4	Nd7
15	Nd5	e6
16	f6	exd5
17	fxg7	Kxg7
18	Rad1	dxe4
19	Rxd6	Rad8
20	Qf2	Kg8
21	Bh6	e3
22	Qxe3	Rfe8
23	Qf4	Qc5+
24	Kh1	f6
25	Rfd1	Qxc2
26	Qd2	Qe4+
27	Qg2	Qe1+
28	Qg1	Draw agreed

FOR THE RECORD

FOOTBALL

European Under-21 championship

Group seven

BULGARIA (2) 3 WALES (1) 1
Ivanov 1 pen Savage 9
Pramatarov 25 25,000
Hristov 90
(at Plovdiv)

Group eight

RUSSIA (1) 1 SCOTLAND (1) 2
Lebed 22 Miller 36
1,000 Freedman 79
(at Torpedo Stadium, Moscow)

OTHER MATCHES: Group one: Romania 1 Poland 2 (in Bucharest); Slovakia 3 Azerbaijan 0 (in Presov). Group five: Czech Republic 2 Belorussia 0 (in Ostrava). Group seven: Georgia 0 Germany 2 (in Rustavi)
VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Postponed: Dover v Woking
BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Postponed: Third division: East Stirling v Queen's Park
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Watford 0 West Ham 2.

Monday's late results

VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Bath 0 Halifax 0, Kidderminster 1 Dagenham and Redbridge 1.
UNIBOND NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE: Premier division: Guiseley 2 Emley 0; Hyde 5 Gainsborough 1. First division: Curzon Ashton 3 Farsley Celtic 1. Unifilla First division Cup: Semi-final, first leg: Gt Harwood Town 3 Caernarfon Town 4.
FA UMBRO TROPHY: Semi-final draw: Kidderminster Harriers v Hyde United; Enfield or Rushden and Diamonds v Woking (two legs to be played on April 8 and 15)
BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division: Chelmsford 1 Cheltenham 2; Hednesford Town 1 Worcester 1. Southern division: Poole 0 Salisbury 1
DIADORA LEAGUE: Premier division: Wokingham 2 Carshalton 3
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Brighton 1 Luton 0; Bristol Rovers 1 Charlton 1; Millwall 1 Arsenal 2, Portsmouth 0 Bristol City 3. Postponed: Chelsea v Crystal Palace. Second division: Torquay 0 Exeter 1
PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Coventry 1 Aston Villa 2; Wolverhampton 1 Derby 1; Sunderland 3 Tranmere 4. Second division: Leicester 1 Huddersfield 4; Newcastle 0 Ebbw Vale 1; Preston 2 Hull 1; Grimsby 1 Sheffield Wed 5.
HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Shortwood 1 Cinderford 3; Pegasus Juniors 0 Cirencester 2.
JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE CUP: Semi-final, first leg: Lymington 2 Portsmouth RN 1
UNIJET SUSSEX LEAGUE: John O'Hara League Cup: Quarter-final: Hailsham Town 1 Peacehaven/Telscombe 0; Selsey 0 Wick 2
INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND ALLIANCE: Paget Rangers 1 Brierley Hill Town 0; Willenhall Town 0 Barwell 0.
OTHER MATCH: Dorchester 0 West Ham 4.
SCHOOLS MATCHES: Centenary Shield Under-18 International: England 4, Wales 4 (at Mansfield). English Reed Trophy: Hampshire 4, Dorset 0.
TESTIMONIAL MATCH: Chelsea 5 Tottenham Hotspur 1

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION: Detroit 93 San Antonio 114; Indiana 98 New Jersey 87, Denver 113 LA Clippers 104; Utah 138 Washington 102.
BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Sunderland Scorpions 92 (Douglas 20, Nottage 19, Hopper 18) London Towers 125 (Windless 46, Lewis 45, Whyte 16).

CRICKET

CASTRIES, St Lucia (Final day of four). West Indies President's XI 261-5 (Joseph 83, Arthurton 75 not out) Australia 322-5 dec (M J Slater 90, M E Waugh 73, S R Waugh 73 not out). Match drawn.
BRISBANE: Sheffield Shield (final day of five): South Australia 214 and 349 (P 100, D Lehmann 62, D Webber 91): Queensland 664 (T Barsby 151, M Love 146, A Border 98, M Hayden 74). Queensland win by an innings and 101 runs

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Tampa Bay 3 Montreal 2 (OT). Toronto 4 Edmonton 3, Dallas 2 St Louis 3.

EASTERN CONFERENCE
Atlantic division

	W	L	D	Pts	F	A
Philadelphia	17	10	4	38	103	87
Washington	12	12	7	31	77	73
New Jersey	12	13	6	30	88	87
NY Rangers	13	15	3	29	81	82
Florida	13	16	3	29	78	86
Tampa Bay	12	16	2	26	79	86
NY Islanders	10	16	4	24	75	95
Northeast division						
Quebec	22	8	3	47	126	79
Pittsburgh	21	9	2	44	127	104
Boston	15	12	2	32	87	74
Hartford	13	14	4	30	81	86
Buffalo	12	12	5	29	69	71
Montreal	11	15	5	27	79	102
Ottawa	4	21	4	12	63	101

Western Conference
Central division

	W	L	D	Pts	F	A
Detroit	20	7	2	42	110	64
Chicago	19	9	2	40	117	72
St Louis	17	10	2	36	107	81
Toronto	15	12	6	36	92	92
Dallas	11	14	5	27	91	82
Winnipeg	9	16	5	23	86	111
Pacific division						
Calgary	15	12	5	35	102	89
Edmonton	12	16	3	27	89	108
Los Angeles	10	14	6	26	95	113
Vancouver	9	13	8	26	87	100
San Jose	11	16	2	24	71	101
Anaheim	8	17	4	20	72	106

RUGBY UNION

CLUB MATCH: Maesteg 45 Nantyffyllon 6

RUGBY LEAGUE

STONES BITTER CHAMPIONSHIP: First division: Postponed: Oldham v Castleford.

SPEEDWAY

PREMIER LEAGUE: Exeter 48 (M Loram 15, P Fry 12) King's Lynn 48 (B Brehl 12, B Ott 11, T Topinka 11).
CLUB CALL TROPHY: Second leg: Wolves 45 (P Karlsson 10, S Ermolenko 8) Cradley Heath 50 (B Hamill 15, G Hancock 14, S Cross 12). Cradley Heath win 101-90 on agg.

TENNIS

HILTON HEAD, South Carolina: Women's tournament: First round: R Dragomir (Rom) bt L Richterova (Cz) 6-4, 6-2; K Nowak (Pol) bt A Fusai (Fr) 7-5, 7-5; C Rubin (US) bt R Zrubakova (Slovakia) 6-2, 6-1; S Pitkowski (Fr) bt R Bobkova (Cz) 3-6, 6-2, 6-1; L Lee (US) bt S Cecchini (It) 6-3, 6-2; S Farina (It) bt V Martinek (Ger) 7-6, 4-1; L Raymond (US) bt N Arendt (US) 6-3, 6-4; S Dopfer (Austria) bt V Ruano Pascual (Sp) 6-4, 3-5 ret; I Spirlea (Rom) bt M Tu (US) 6-4, 4-6, 6-4; J Wiesner (Austria) bt J Steven (US) 6-1, 6-3; E Makarova (Russ) bt A Grossman (US) 6-2, 6-0; A Coetzer (SA) bt T Ignatieva (Belo) 5-7, 6-3, 6-4; M Babel (Ger) bt Laurence Courtois (Bel) 7-6, 6-1; S Cacic (US) bt P Hy-Boulais (Can) 6-4, 6-0; R McQuillan (Aus) bt N Avila (Sp) 3-6, 6-1, 6-0.
NOTTINGHAM: Vauxhall Premier Trophy: Men: Semi-finals: Royal Berkshire Premier bt SSI Matchpoint Bramhall 2-1 (Royal Berkshire Premier names first): C Wilkinson lost to G Henderson 6-2, 6-7, 5-7; P Hand bt M Wyeth 7-5 7-6. Wilkinson and Hand bt Henderson and Wyeth 6-4 6-4. David Lloyd Raynes Park bt Nottingham Leisure 2-0. (David Lloyd Raynes Park names first) J Bates bt R Matheson 6-4, 6-4; Danny Sapsford bt Andrew Foster 6-2, 6-4.

YACHTING

SAN DIEGO, California: America's Cup: Semi-finals: Louis Vuitton Cup (challenger series). Team New Zealand (P Blake) bt Tag Heuer Challenge (C Dickson) by 1min 28sec; oneAustralia (J Bertrand) bt Nippon '95 (M Namba) by 1:10. Standings: 1, Team New Zealand 7pts; 2, oneAustralia 4; 3, Tag Heuer Challenge 3; 4, Nippon '95 0. Citizen Cup (defender series) America³ (L Egnot) bt Y America (K Mahaney) by 38sec. Standings: 1, Young America 6, equal 2, Stars & Stripes (D Conner) and America³ 2.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

ORTANIQUE
a. A harem girl
b. An orange/tangerine
c. A butterfly

PRISIADKA
a. A Mongol breed of horse
b. Russian ravioli
c. A squatting dance

RICKEY
a. An iced spirit drink
b. A goalkeeper at ice hockey
c. A Lloyds messenger

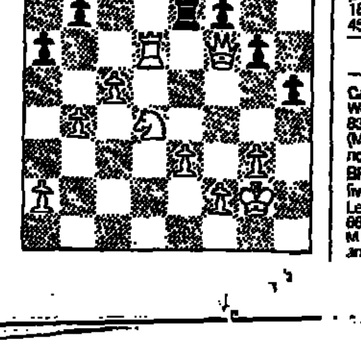
PIFFING
a. Glorious
b. Bad shooting
c. Heavy necking

Answers: page 35

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Lautier - Sokolov, Linares 1995. Here White found a neat combination which opened up the black kingside defences and allowed him to deliver a quick checkmate. What did he play?



Solution: page 35

هكذا من الاصل

Masculine, feminine or neither, thank you

REVIEW

Lynne Truss

Although it is several years since Ludovic Kennedy hosted BBC 2's *Did You See*?, I still keep an eye out for likely clips. Last night's **QED** (BBC 1) contained scenes ideal for the highlights treatment: it seemed almost a shame to ruin their clippy integrity by building a 30-minute programme around them. Under the guidance of an emphatic American performance artist called Diane, a group of young British women learnt to dress and behave like men — an act which involved swaggering in jackets, shouting with facial hair, taking themselves seriously (too hard, this) and sitting with legs wide apart on crowded Underground trains. Clips galore here, obviously, but I fancied Ludo would choose the scene when Diane, thrusting a hand in her empty Y-fronts, addressed the girls flatly. "Now, do you all have your penises with you?".

The story was *Sex Acts*, and the argument was about gender. How much is nature, how much is nurture? Things are getting confusing out there, and the simple transsexuality of boy-becomes-girl is passé, old hat. Nowadays it is possible for unhappy people to opt for a "third gender" (as yet unnamed) somewhere short of either male or female, and then spend the rest of their lives arguing with small-minded application forms with only two boxes to tick. Two women had undergone voluntary mastectomy in order to become "third gender". At Charing Cross Hospital, there is even a gender identity clinic, where presumably they've stopped bothering to label the lavatories.

Back at Diane Torr's masterclass (that's literally what it was), the women were learning to eat like construction workers (with heads bent close to the plate); then they threw themselves into chairs while casually unbuttoning their jackets with one hand. The issue was male confidence, "the assumption that everything you do is important", and the question was: are males born that way, or do they learn it? Food for thought, all this. Showing a speech by George Bush, Diane explained how he gave authority to his words by assuming a minimal, opaque body language — occasional hand gesture, wooden face. And all the while, as she bluntly pointed out, what he was saying was garbage.

Over on Channel 4, **My Generation**, part of *Without Walls*, brought us a half-hour on the Kinks, in which Ray Davies and brother Dave seemed to have little problem being male, despite some hilarious hairdressing footage from the 1960s, in which they visited the Ginger Group and sat under driers with rollers in their hair, drinking cups of tea and flicking through *Woman's Own*. "Girls will be boys, and boys will be girls. It's a mixed up, meddled up, shook up world," sang Ray Davies in the camp classic *Lola*. Oh, thank you for the days. Ray came across last night, slightly improbably, as a cutting-edge social anthropologist of Britain in the 1960s, the Claude Levi-Strauss of the Hit Parade. Damon Albarn of Blur (a fan) even risked an aphorism. "The Stones were pornographic; the Kinks were geographic." I'm still wondering what this means. Perhaps it was just garbage.

Ray sat at a mixing panel, saturnine in dark glasses; the genial Dave was interviewed separately, possibly in Scotland, just to be on the safe side. Sibling rivalry is evidently an inadequate term for this particular relationship. "Ray will be seen as one of the greatest rock and roll lyricists of our age," conceded Dave cheerfully, "but I don't like paying him compliments. He's got a big enough head as it is." Dave was, of course, the pretty one on stage — the lead guitarist with centre parting and one-length hair. He loved Carnaby Street flamboyance: his agent gave him a sword, to go with his thigh-length boots, and his eyes still shone at the memory of it.

Dave and Ray were two halves of a perfect composite rock star: Dave looked sweet and hit people, Ray wrote songs and had breakdowns. The size of Ray's head remained a problem, but on the other hand, he wrote *Sunny Afternoon*, *Waterloo Sunset* and *Days*, which would be enough to confuse anybody's self-esteem. "My work is much better than I am. I just don't live up to it," said Ray at the end. He sounded sincere. "I'd love to be as good as *Waterloo Sunset*."

No escaping from gender last night. **The Labours of Eve** (BBC 2) was *Jessie's Story*, about a woman who served a prison sentence in the 1950s for performing abortions in Norwich with an enema tube. Jessie was fascinating not just because her morbid story was new to television, but because of the way she related to the presenter, Nicky Singer; the way she unskilfully evaded the issues. In the light of *Sex Acts*, both sides of this discussion seemed purely female. Jessie had aborted her own baby first, under the tutelage of her nasty old mum, and Nicky took her back to the very bathroom where she did it.

"All I could do was call my mum," said Jessie, distressed to remember how she couldn't touch the baby. Nicky held her briefly, grasped her hand. "But did you think it was wrong?" she prompted. "I felt regret and grief," replied Jessie staunchly; "I didn't feel it was wrong, because my mother told me it wasn't wrong." When the subject turned to other people's abortions, Nicky tried again on the moral tack, but the effort was doomed. Jessie just got upset; she snapped at Nicky not to upset her again.

George Bush's frozen garbage technique on the one hand; Jessie's pure emotion on the other. Perhaps it's true that we need a third gender, somewhere in between.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (96788)

7.00 BBC Breakfast News (95668610)

9.05 Kilroy (s) (5719981)

10.00 News (Ceefax) regional news and weather (7104962) ***10.05 EastEnders — The Early Days*** (r) (Ceefax) (8111165)

10.35 Good Morning with Anne and Nick Family magazine programme (s) (7536829)

12.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (1962320)

12.05 Pebble Mill (s) (7738233)

12.55 Regional News and Weather (15378639)

1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (99726)

All dressed up for the debutantes' ball (1.30pm)

1.30 Neighbours. Hannah gets ready for the ball but Gaby and Annalise have a girls' night in (s) (Ceefax) (77015813)

1.50 Going for Gold with Henry Kelly (s) (77199829)

2.15 Alias Smith and Jones. Hayes and Curry to the aid of a fellow traveller (r) (3571829)

3.05 More of ... Glynn Christian's Entertaining Microwave (s) (5172875)

3.20 Prue Leith's Tricks of the Trade. How to prepare a chocolate fondue. (s) (6312165)

3.30 Lifeline. An appeal by Ruth Madoc on behalf of the National Kidney Association (r). (s) (Ceefax) (2462875)

3.40 Cartoon (8308271)

3.45 Sick as a Parrot *(s) (2474610)*

4.00 Jackanory: The Twitches. Niall Ashdown tells a story by Roy Apps (s) (4780981)

4.10 Chipmunks Go to the Movies (6743639)

4.35 Take Two. Last of the series (s) (Ceefax) (1007523)

5.00 Newsround (2702707)

5.05 Maid Marian and Her Merry Men. An unfortunate day for Gary (r) (s) (Ceefax) (6508455)

5.35 Neighbours (r) (s) (Ceefax) (702504)

6.00 Six O' Clock News and Weather (Ceefax) (287)

6.30 Regional news magazines (639)

7.00 This Is Your Life (s). (Ceefax) (3900)

7.30 Here and Now. Current affairs (523)

8.00 Hearts of Gold. Esther Rantzen and her team pay tribute to acts of courage and kindness. (s) (Ceefax) (299392)

8.50 Points of View. Viewers' soapbox (277829)

9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (Ceefax) (9875)

9.30 Harry. A young prostitute disappears and Harry believes he knows who is responsible (s) (Ceefax) (233184)

10.20 Sportsnight. England v Uruguay at Wembley, plus action from the European Cup qualifying ties: Russia v Scotland, Bulgaria v Wales and Republic of Ireland v Northern Ireland (s) (538707) **Wales:** Sportsnight Wales (538707)

12.00 FILM: Mass Appeal (1984). A fiery seminarian ruffles congregational feathers. Starring Jack Lemmon, Zeljko Ivanek and Charles Durning. (s) (929479) **1.40am Weather** (6120059)

BBC2

6.20 Open University

8.00 Breakfast News. (Ceefax and signing) (6098523)

8.15 Westminster On-Line with Trevor Phillips (s) (4586146)

9.00 Daytime on Two. *Educational programmes. Plus,* for children, **10.00-10.25** Playdays (8122271) **1.45** You and Me (25601639) **2.00** The Greedysaurus Gang (65250639) **2.05** Spider (65242610)

2.10 Songs of Praise (r). (Ceefax) (s) (4055207)

2.45 NEW **Back to Work: Self Help.** Advice on the alleviation of back pain (7228900)

3.00 News and weather followed by **Westminster with Nick Ross**. (Ceefax) (4604455) **3.50 News** (Ceefax) and weather (8393349)

4.00 Today's the Day. History quiz (s) (252)

4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook. Innovative recipes (s) (436). **Wales:** Natural Born Footballers (6562813) 4.45-7.00 Football: Bulgaria v Wales (98760338)

5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show. (Ceefax) (s) (3472610)

5.40 One Lump or Two? Series on tea (786691)

6.00 Star Trek — The Next Generation. Science-fiction adventures. (Ceefax) (s) (217894)

6.45 Natural Born Footballers. A profile of Kenny Dalglish. (Ceefax) (s) (216523)

7.00 CHOICE **Open Space Special: Two Hours from London** (224504)

7.50 Russian Wonderland. The story of two elderly sisters. (Ceefax) (879436)

8.00 CHOICE **Seven Wonders of the World**. (Ceefax) (s) (4962)

8.30 CHOICE **University Challenge**. (Ceefax) (s) (3097)

Ann Taylor beside her dog's grave (9.00pm)

9.00 CHOICE **Modern Times: Goodbye, Dear Friend.** (Ceefax) (s) (874829)

9.50 Russian Wonderland. A portrait of Mark Goryachv, the leader of the Democratic Forum of the Russian parliament. (Ceefax) (315349)

10.00 Room 101. Ian Hislop (r). (Ceefax) (s) (93417)

10.30 Newsnight. (Ceefax) (871788)

11.15 The Late Show. A discussion on Michael Foot's documentary about Bosnia, shown at 7.00pm (s) (759252) **11.55 Weather** (115184)

12.00 Reconstruction of the Bankside Theatres (4895769) **12.25 Resourceful Manager** (9679189)

12.50 The Record. The day in Parliament (s) (4970295). Ends at **1.20**

2.00-3.20 Night School: Primary Science (4479011)

4.00-4.15 BBC Select: Benefits Agency Today (13745566)

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CHOICE

Michael Foot accuses the Serbs (BBC2, 7.00pm)

Open Space Special: Two Hours From London
BBC2, 7.00pm

The Foot family takes over the viewer access slot to mount a passionate denunciation of Western, and particularly British, policy towards the former Yugoslavia. The film is presented by Michael Foot, written and directed by Jill Craigie, his wife, and produced by their grandson, Jason Lehel. The Foots blame the bloodshed firmly on the Serbs, equating the push for a Greater Serbia with the Pan-German aspirations of the Nazis, comparing ethnic cleansing to Hitler's final solution and arguing that Western policy has been as craven in the 1990s as it was in the 1930s. Ironically, perhaps, one of the Foots' main supporters is none other than Baroness Thatcher. The film is discussed in *The Late Show* at 11.15pm.

Modern Times: Goodbye, Dear Friend
BBC2, 9.00pm

"There were more friends at Kim's burial than there probably will be at mine," says surgeon Dave Lewis. Kim was his labrador dog. The British grieve mightily over their dead pets. Gravestones in a Lancashire cemetery record the lives of Tyger, a guinea pig ("so good, so brave") and of Timmy, described as the woolly wonder and the pussiest pussy cat. For Janet Thomas, a vet, helping owners through bereavement is a big part of the job. All her reserves of sympathy are needed to comfort a sobbing middle-aged couple who have just seen their boxer dog put to sleep. It is easy for non-animal-lovers to scoff but Marilyn Wheatcroft's film plays the subject straight. The depth of emotion over a dog or cat is made to seem natural, not eccentric.

Seven Wonders of the World
BBC2, 8.00pm

The banana slug is so called because it is about the size of the fruit and bright yellow. Professor Steve Jones defies us not to be awestruck by it. He is not trying to pull our legs. As a geneticist these creatures are all part of the day's work. As a geneticist, too, Jones lists sex among his seven wonders, but not in the way you might expect. He explains how sex, or rather the lack of it, caused the Irish potato famine in the 1840s. This curious series continues to throw up irresistible material. Jones cannot resist a joke. Choosing an unlovely 1960s tower block, he gets two wonders at once. The first wonder is that it was allowed to be built, the second that nobody has tried blow it up.

University Challenge
BBC2, 8.30pm

Credit to the BBC for knowing a good show when they see one, even if it did come from the rival channel. *University Challenge* ran on ITV for 25 years and there is no formula like an old and tested one. All that was needed was a new question-master and Jeremy Paxman, with his friendly sarcasm, has made the role his own. The surprise about tonight's final is that it features none of those seemingly infallible teams from the Scottish universities. Instead we have Trinity College, Cambridge, playing New College, Oxford. New College is famous for Arun Balasubramianian, the panellist with the longest surname, and for winning from behind. As Trinity moves into an early lead, can it do so again? **Peter Waymark**

CARLTON

6.00am GMTV (7177417)

9.25 Chain Letters Word game with Ted Robbins (s) (3512349) **9.55 London Today** (Teletext) and weather (8109320)

10.00 The Time... the Place with John Stapleton (s) (7234900)

10.35 This Morning. Weekday family magazine with Richard Madeley and Judy Finnigan (2691271)

12.20pm London Today (Teletext) and weather (1968504)

12.30 News (Teletext) and weather (2510287)

12.55 Coronation Street (r). (Teletext) (2422078) **1.25 Home and Away** (Teletext) (57339894)

1.55 Capital Woman with Anneka Richard, Stephen Gardner and Pattie Coldwell (s) (35372287) **2.25 A Country Practice** (s) (74076368)

2.50 Blue Heelers. Rural Australian police drama series (7587542) **3.20 ITN News** headlines (Teletext) (6316981) **3.25 London Today** (Teletext) and weather (6315252)

3.30 Alphabet Castle (r) (s) (2480271) **3.40 Wizadora** (r) (s) (8384691) **3.50 Talespin** (r) (s) (8074829) **4.20 Brill** (Teletext) (s) (8413707) **4.40 Cone Zone** (Teletext) (s) (9361165)

5.10 After 5 with Caron Keating (Teletext) (6592894)

5.40 ITN Early Evening News (Teletext) and weather (284566)

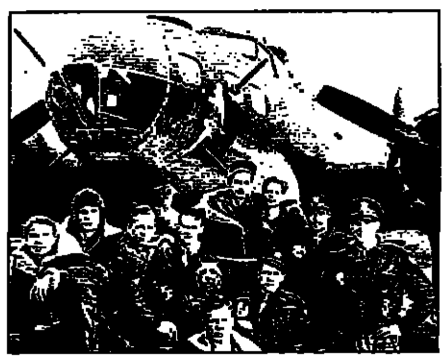
5.55 Your Shout. Viewers' soapbox (975504)

6.00 Home and Away (r). (Teletext) (455)

6.30 London Tonight with Alastair Stewart and Fiona Foster. (Teletext) (707)

7.00 Wish You Were Here...? Includes reports from London, a cruise of the Eastern Mediterranean and Nashville. (Teletext) (s) (2368)

7.30 Coronation Street. Reg and Curly face the Americans. (Teletext) (691)



The *Memphis Belle* and her crew (8.00pm)

8.00 FILM: Memphis Belle (1990) starring Matthew Modine and Eric Stoltz. Based on the true story of the crew of the B17 Flying Fortress bomber, the *Memphis Belle*, as they fly their final mission over Germany, hoping to become the first American aircrew to survive 25 flights. Directed by Michael Caton-Jones (8639)

10.00 News at Ten (Teletext) and weather (13271) **10.30 London Tonight** (Teletext) and weather (550813)

10.40 FILM: Iron Eagle II (1988) starring Louis Gossett Jr and Mark Humphrey. An unconventional colonel is recalled from exile in an isolated outpost to lead a joint American-Soviet mission to destroy a weapons centre in the Middle East. Directed by Sidney J. Furie (12153523)

12.40am Alien Nation (s) (1466566)

1.35 Hollywood Report (s) (2530769)

2.05 The Beat. Music and movie magazine (s) (6225924)

3.00 The Album Show featuring Elton John (s) (9032634)

4.05 Shift (2601092)

4.55 The Time... the Place (r) (s) (7128547)

5.30 ITN Morning News (52214). Ends at **6.00**

CHANNEL 4

6.35am Spiff and Hercules (2515558)

7.00 The Big Breakfast (89349)

9.00 You Bet Your Life (r) (s) (90320)

9.30 Schools: Living and Growing (5603320) **9.46** Talk, *Write and Read (5826271)* ***10.02*** *Stage Two* Science (6476455) **The Jacobites** (6455962) **10.40** Living with Technology (4283165) **10.55** Film and Video Showcase (6622078) **11.05** Encyclopaedia Galactica (6347558) **11.15** The Music Show (6818610) **11.30** Rat-a-Tat-Tat (4513287) **11.45** First Edition (4438542)

12.00 House to House. Politics with Maya Even (10184)

12.30pm Sesame Street. The guest is Little Richard (89455) **1.30 Take 5** with *Mister Men, Tales from the Riverbank, Natalie, Ivor the Engine* and *Joggy Bear* (r) (28691)

2.00 Sports Suite. Sports movement synchronised with classical music. (39054523)

2.15 FILM: Breaking Home Ties (1987). Drama set in the 1950s with Doug McKeon as a young boy whose journey towards adulthood is jolted by the discovery that his mother is terminally ill. Directed by John Wilder. (730146)

4.00 Journeyman. Clive Gunnell takes to the sea off Weymouth. (s) (Teletext) (320)

4.30 Countdown (s) (Teletext) (504)

5.00 Ricki Lake: Mum, You were a Rotten Parent (s) (Teletext) (8437097)

5.50 Terrytoons (998455)

6.00 All American Girl: Booktupus. Kim fears bankruptcy but Margaret is determined to save the shop. (s) (Teletext) (487)

6.30 Boy Meets World: Who's Afraid of Cory Wolf? (s) (Teletext)(349)

7.00 Channel 4 News and Weather (Teletext) (242900)

7.50 The Slot (864504)

8.00 Brookside. David confesses to Jean on her deathbed. (s) (Teletext) (2558)

8.30 The Real Holiday Show. Gaby Roslin presents the reality of life on holiday. (s) (Teletext) (8165)

9.00 Dispatches. Current affairs. (Teletext) (949710)

9.45 Broken Skin. A short, Oscar-nominated film starring Miranda Richardson (r). (348542)

Sherry Stringfield as Dr Susan Lewis (10.00pm)

10.00 ER: Confidential. Lewis is worried about Cvetic's deep depression. (s) (Teletext) (819788)

10.55 The Best of the Tube. Jools Holland and Paula Yates with highlights, including Fun Boy Three, Elvis Costello and U2 (149726)

11.30 Moviewatch. A look at the Oscar-nominated *The Madness of King George* (r) (s) (45417)

12.00 The White Room. Features Heather Nova (r). (s) (99382)

1.00am Movie Music Man: A Portrait of Lalo Schifrin. Narrated by Steve Race (r). (s) (Teletext) (8750189)

2.05 FILM: I'll Take Romance (1937, b/w). Grace Moore is an opera singer who is kidnapped by Melvyn Douglas to sing at the opening of a new opera house. Directed by Edward H. Griffith. (7324276)

CHANNEL 4

ANGLIA

As London except: 1.55 A Country Practice (77010368) **2.20** Gardening Time (74068349) **2.50-3.20** Blockbusters (7587542) (6315252) **5.10-5.40** Shortland Street (6592894) **6.25-7.00** Anglia News (736504) **10.30** Anglia News (550813) **10.40** Best Defense (80308405) **12.25am** Alien Nation (8212818) **1.20** Hollywood Report (4032479) **1.50** America's Top Ten (5592498) **2.20** Shift (5377924) **3.10** The Little Picture Show (3621160) **4.05** Adventure (83576943) **4.25** The Time.. the Place (3407295) **5.00** The Munsters Today (77160)

CENTRAL

As London except: 1.55 A Country Practice (77010368) **2.20** Gardening Time (74068349) **2.50-3.20** Blockbusters (7587542) **5.10-5.40** Shortland Street (6592894) **6.25-7.00** Central News and Weather (736504) **10.30** Central News (550813) **10.40** Harry Connick Jnr Swinging and Singing (353981) **11.05** Central Sports Special (415981) **12.10am** The Hidden Room (4894030) **3.55** On the Live Side (59568108) **4.05** Jobfinder (7913011) **5.20** Asian Eye (7692276)

GRANADA

As London except: 12.55-1.25 Shortland Street (2422078) **1.25** Home and Away (87049097) **1.50** Highway to Heaven (6511287) **2.50-3.20** Coronation Street (7587542) **5.10-5.40** A Country Practice (6592894) **6.25** Granada Tonight (736504) **7.00-7.30** Wish You Were Here ..? (2368) **10.30** Granada News (550813) **10.40** Being There (343504) **11.10** A Matter of Wife and Death (169165) **12.30am** Curtis Calls (5551382) **12.40** Alien Nation (1466566) **1.35** Hollywood Report (2530769) **2.05** The Beat (6225924) **3.00** The Album Show (9032634) **4.05** Shift (2601092) **4.55** The Time.. the Place (7128547)

HTV WEST

As London except: 1.55 Good Health! (35372287) **2.25** Good Advice (74050320) **2.55-3.20** Shortland Street (7493523) **5.10-5.40** A Country Practice (6592894) **6.30-7.00** HTV News (707) **10.40** Target Eagle (12153523)

HTV WALES

As HTV WEST except: 1.55-2.25 The Really Helpful Programme (35372287) **6.30-7.00** Wales Tonight (707) **10.40** Championship Boxing (547184) **11.40** The Equalizer (830691)

MERIDIAN

As London except: 1.55 A Country Practice (77010368) **2.20** True. But Strange (74068349) **2.50-3.20** Shortland Street (7587542) **5.10-5.40** Home and Away (6592894) **6.00** Meridian Tonight (455) **6.30-7.00** The Village (707) **10.40** Kojak: Fatal Flaw (80308405) **12.25am** Alien Nation (8212818) **1.20** Hollywood Report (4032479) **1.50** America's Top Ten (5592498) **2.20** Shift (5377924) **3.10** The Little Picture Show (3621160) **4.05** Adventure (83576943) **4.25** The Time.. the Place (3407295) **5.00** Freescreen (77160)

WESTCOUNTRY

As London, except: 9.55-10.00 Westcountry News (8109320) **12.20pm** Westcountry News (1977252) **12.25-12.30** My Story (1976523) **1.55** High Road (35372287) **2.25-3.25** Great House Cookery (74050320) **5.10-5.40** Home and Away (6592894) **6.00-7.00** Westcountry Live (46097) **10.40** Power Game (343504) **11.10** The Equalizer (147368) **12.10am** The Hidden Room (4894030)

YORKSHIRE

As London except: 9.55-10.00 Calendar News and Weather (8109320) **12.20pm-12.30** Yorkshire' Calendar News and Weather / Bisdale. Network North (1968504) **1.55** A Country Practice (77010368) **2.20** The Restaurant Show (74068349) **2.50-3.20** Shortland Street (7587542) **3.25-3.30** Yorkshire. Calendar News / Bisdale Network North (6315252) **5.10-5.40** Home and Away (6592894) **5.55** Calendar / Network North (863981) **6.30-7.00** Crosswits (707) **10.30** Calendar News and Weather (550813) **10.40** Street Legal (524233) **11.35** When Time Ran Out (220436) **2.05am** Videofashion (7964276) **2.35** The Album Show (8998301) **3.35** Nosy Mothers (8593160) **4.30** Jobfinder (33160)

S4C

Starts: 7.00 The Big Breakfast (89349) **9.00** You Bet Your Life (90320) **9.30** Ysgolion/schools (622436) **12.00pm** House To House (10184) **12.30** Slot Meithrin Rala Rwdins (28320) **1.00** Sesame Street (24875) **2.00** Food File (9894) **2.30** For The Last Year (Tvm 1980) (8137639) **3.55** Countdown (8991542) **4.25** 5 Pump - Anturiaethau Jini Me r (8429368) **4.40** 5 Pump - Waldo (6553165) **4.55** Pil-droed Pencampwriaeth Ewrop 1995 Yn fyw o Sofia Sed gm Cymru (48772504) **7.00** Pobol Y Cwm (3610) **7.30** 'Nil Am Noson (233) **8.00** Amser Rhyfel Adenydd Angau (2558) **8.30** Newyddion/news (8165) **9.00** Tydi Coleg Yn Grêt (5813) **9.30** Rap (49184) **10.00** Brookside (11813) **10.30** E R. Confidential (526691) **11.25** Dispatches (489981) **12.10am** The Golden Girls Little Sister (4892672) **12.40** Ellen Adam's Birthday (4968450) **1.10** Dwedd/close (4043585)

SATELLITE

SKY ONE

6.00am DJ Kat (31523) **8.00** Mighty Morphin Power Rangers (44165) **8.30** Blockbusters (43436) **9.00** Oprah Winfrey (77165) **10.00** Concentration (89829) **10.30** Card Sharks (56900) **11.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (24436) **12.00** The Urban Peasant (47252) **12.30pm** Anything But Love (63788) **1.00** St Elsewhere (84271) **2.00** Trade Winds (80558) **3.00** *Oprah Winfrey (8821271)* ***3.50*** *DJ Kat* (9188610) **4.30** Mighty Morphin Power Rangers (3558) **5.00** Star Trek. Deep Space Nine (6349) **6.00** Murphy Brown (1523) **6.30** Family Ties (2875) **7.00** Rescue (7078) **7.30** M*A*S*H (4287) **8.00** Robocop (80748) **9.00** Picket Fences (18252) **10.00** Star Trek. Deep Space Nine (28639) **11.00** David Letterman (481946) **11.50** Littlejohn (744456) **12.40am** Chances (3897160) **1.30** WKRP (56289) **2.00** Hit Mix (1169176)

SKY NEWS

News on the hour.
6.00am Sunrise (1342875) **9.30** Entertainment This Week (34078) **10.30** ABC Nightline (23788) **1.30pm** CBS News This Morning (93287) **2.30** Parliament Live (57813) **4.00** World News and Business (70504) **5.00** Live at Five (8888165) **8.05** Richard Littlejohn (2216900) **7.30** O.J. Simpson Trial (7158078) **12.30am** CBS Evening News (60950) **1.30** Fashion TV (62108) **2.30** Parliament Replay (61479) **4.30** CBS Evening News (82450) **5.30-6.00** ABC World News Tonight (78276)

SKY MOVIES

6.00am Showcase (1892875) **10.00 Love Potion No 9** (1992) (67504) **12.00 How to Steal a Million** (1966) (50560436) **2.05pm Straight Talk** (1992) (929078) **4.00 City Boy** (1992) (4981) **6.00 Love Potion No 9** (1992) As 10am (22455) **8.00 Bob Roberts** (1992) (27900) **10.00 Dragon: The Bruce Lee Story** (1993) (87894) **12.00 Bare Exposure** (1993) (195585) **1.45am Daybreak** (1993) (441189) **3.15-4.45 In the Company of Darkness** (1992) (89628214)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

6.00pm Five Fingers (1952) (94489) **8.00 The Mummy's Shroud** (1966) (44964) **10.00-12.00 Dracula AD 1972** (1972) (50788)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.00am Detective Story (1951) (24233) **8.00 Les Miserables** (1988) (3279146) **8.50 Oliver Twist** (1986). Cartoon (8502349) **9.45 Cobra Woman** (7858766) **11.00 Tarzan and the Leopard Woman** (1946) (8613417) **12.15pm Branded** (1950) (300894) **2.00 Day of the Outlaw** (1959) (30243) **4.00 Les Miserables** (1988): As 8am (2558287) **4.50 Oliver Twist** (1986): As 8 50am (4938097) **5.50 Breathing Lessons** (1993) (27883349) **7.30 Special Feature: Little Women** (4097) **8.00 Jack the Bear** (1993) (25542) **10.00 In the Line of Fire** (1993) (24591981) **12.10am Death in Small Doses** (1993) (566059) **1.45 Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday** (1985) (302214) ***3.25-5.00 Canvas*** *(1993) (18149214)*

● For more film information, see the Vision supplement, published Saturday

SKY SPORTS

7.00am Soccer News (4251691) **7.15** WWF Superstars (949097) **8.15** Soccer News (2274320) **8.30** Boots 'n' All (29829) **9.30** Aerobics Oz Style (10271) **10.00** The Footballers' Football Show (64078) **11.00** A to Z of Sport — Football (77542) **12.00** Aerobics Oz Style (72523) **12.30pm** Pole Position (58184) **1.30** Boots 'n' All (59813) **2.30** Grass Roots Rugby (1368) **3.00** Darts — The WDC Shoot Out (13165) **4.30** Freestyle Skiing (1504) **5.00** WWF Challenge (5875) **6.00** Soccer News (780523) **6.15** Fish Tales (785078) **6.30** Get Your Handicap Down (3349) **7.00** Football Special. Live. England v Uruguay (68572726) **10.15** Soccer News (108146) **10.30** The Rugby Club (37894) **11.30** Get Your Handicap Down (25691) **12.00** Football Special (84498) **2.00-2.15am** Fish Tales (4879943)

EUROSPORT

7.30am Aerobics (11558) **8.30** Figure Skating (83417) **10.00** Dancing (59146) **11.00** Body Building (62610) **12.00** Rally Raid (95962) **1.00pm** Snooker (700788) **3.30** Equestrianism (78436) **4.30** Wrestling (42726) **5.30** Motorcycling Magazine (7392) **6.00** Formula One (7165) **6.30** Eurosport News (8417) **7.00** Prime Time Boxing Special (54691) **9.00** Motors (58436) **10.00** Football (14962) **12.00-12.30am** News (33127)

SKY SOAP

8.00am Loving (4794417) **8.30** Peyton Place (4793788) **9.00** As the World Turns (4909146) **10.00** Guiding Light (9296233) **11.00-12.00** Another World (9218097)

SKY TRAVEL

12.00 Globetrotter (4797504) **12.30pm** Zoo Life with Jack Hanna (1093558) **1.00** Colorado River Adventures (9210813) **1.30** Cook Italian (1092829) **2.00** California Gold (7576252) **2.30** Ticket to Paradise (4429558) **3.00** Discover America (4220523) **4.00** Sky Travel Guide (4330610) **4.30** Zoo Life with Jack Hanna (4338894) **5.00** Travel Guides (7587504) **5.30** Cook Italian (4327148) **6.00** Globetrotter (4420287) **6.30** Crete and Greek Islands (4348839) **7.00** The Greatest Classic Car Race (5219726) **8.00** Around the World in 30 Minutes (7583788) **8.30** Travel Guide (7575523) **9.00** Globetrotter (4238542) **9.30** Crete and Greek Islands (1900894) **10.00** The Greatest Classic Car Race (5218097) **11.00** Travel Guides (4313287) **11.30-12.00** California Gold (4865894)

Jason Scott Lee as Bruce Lee (Sky Movies 10.00pm)

TLC

9.00am The Joy of Painting (2577320) **9.30** Madeleine Cooks (5795436) **10.00** Looking for Love (2516894) **10.30** Only Human (1884097) **11.30** Adopting Olya (2117879) **12.00** The Creative Spirit (7324726) **12.45pm** Draw with Don (31923894) **1.00** Madeleine Cooks (8257558) **1.30** Painting (5798523) **2.00** Jimmy's (2679813) **2.30** Cash in Hand (1625691) **3.00** World of Herbs (2658320) **3.30-4.00** It's a Vet's Life (1837436)

UK GOLD

7.00am Give Us a Clue (8154417) **7.30** Neighbours (8166252) **8.00** Sons and Daughters (2598455) **8.30** EastEnders (2595726) **9.00** The Bill (2586078) **9.30** Campion (5598962) **10.30** When the Boat Comes In (38621097) **11.35** Going for Gold (67113726) **12.00** Sons and Daughters (2599542) **12.30pm** Neighbours (5791610) **1.00** EastEnders (8153788) **1.30** The Bill (5790981) **2.00** Bless This House (2671271) **2.30** Brush Strokes (1634349) **3.00** Knots Landing (8717833) **4.00** Dallas (8713418) ***5.00*** *Going for Gold* (98319962) **5.25** XYZ (98338097) **5.50** Hi-De-Hi (4455271) **6.30** EastEnders (1722558) **7.00** The Likes of Sykes (9356788) **8.00** The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole Aged 13¾ (2668707) **8.30** Carry On Laughing (2670542) **9.00** Miss Marple: Murder at the Vicarage (9377900) **10.00** The Bill (2590271) **10.30** Top of the Pops (7289078) **11.15** The Young Ones (2182078) **11.40** Dr Who: The Ambassadors of Death (8909287) **12.20am** FILM. The 39 Steps (1935) (9312672) **2.00** Shopping (3171943)

THE CHILDREN'S CHANNEL

6.00am Sesame Street (8831691) **6.55** Garfield and Friends (7108165) **7.25** Eek the Cat (8196726) **7.55** Degrassi Junior High (4239338) **8.25** Super Mario Brothers (4048252) **8.45** Casper and Friends (1254455) **9.00** Sesame Street (57349) **10.00** It's Drolbee Time (58455) **12.00** Garfield and Friends (23271) **12.30pm** Eek the Cat (49707) **1.00** Beverly Hills Teens (78441) **1.30** Super Mario Brothers (83135981) **1.45** Baby Follies (83130436) **2.00** Barney and Friends (2184) **2.30** Babar (3339) **3.00** Casper and Friends (1377900) **3.15** Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventures (878900) **3.45** Sonic the Hedgehog (877271) **4.15** Head to Head in 3D (1973523) **4.30-5.00** California Dreams (3542)

NICKELODEON

7.00am Nickelive! (4258233) **7.15** Pee-Wee's Playhouse (963417) **7.45** Rugrats (962788) **8.15** Doug (314900) **8.45** Nickelive! (8984900) **9.00** Nick Jr (767388) **12.00** Where on Earth Is Carmen San Diego? (70165) **12.30pm** The Muppet Show (92829) **1.00** Smoggies (79900) **1.30** Galaxy High School (11900) **2.00** Alvin and the Chipmunks (6558) **2.30** Henry's Cat (2610) **3.00** Grimmy (2165) **3.30** Where on Earth is Carmen San Diego? (4455) **4.00** Rude Dog and The Dweebs (3962) **4.30** Rugrats (9146) **5.00** Clarissa Explains It All (7610) **5.30** Odyssey (3726) **6.00** Doug (2469) **6.30-7.00** Are You Afraid of the Dark? (4691)

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Waterways (1849271) **4.30** Deadly Australians (1645455) **5.00** Treasure Hunters (2580165) **5.30** Terra X (8409981) **6.05** Beyond 2000 (4050436) **7.00** Predators (9459558) **8.00** Dinosaurs, Dead or Alive? (2666349) **8.30** Dinosaurs, Dead or Alive? (2678184) **9.00** Magic or Medicine? (9375542) **10.00** Outlaws (9458829) **11.00-12.00** Mountains of Gold (8181707)

BRAVO

12.00 FILM: The Slime People (1963): Vegetables attack Los Angeles (6555813) **1.30pm** Smothers Brothers (6792349) **2.00** *The Avengers (2511349)* ***3.00*** *The Rat Patrol* (2652146) **3.30** Hogan's Heroes (1624962) **4.00** FILM: Ten Little Indians (1966): Agatha Christie whodunnit (2656962) **6.00** It's Garry Shandling's Show (1620146) **6.30** Cannon (1824271) **7.30** Scotland Yard (1633610) **8.00** The Avengers (9359504) **9.00** The Twilight Zone (3567310) **9.30** FILM: Joanna (1968). Genevieve Waite arrives in swinging London (5353542) **11.30-12.00** Hogan's Heroes (2509504)

UK LIVING

6.00am Agony Hour (6555252) **7.00** Living (8063610) **8.00** Signs of the Times (2930851) **8.30** Bon Voyage (3380392) **9.00** Bazaar (9685784) **9.30** Kate and Allie (7847078) **10.05** Now You See It (8361454) **10.30** Susan Powter (3285748) **11.00** Young and Restless (7574165) **12.00** Take Six Cooks (6937455) **12.35pm** Bon Voyage (48714233) **1.05** Kilroy (8774078) **2.00** Agony Hour (1454726) **3.00** Living (7150788) **3.45** Gladrags (65643233) **4.00** Infatuation UK (9777707) **4.30** Crosswits (8766891) **5.00** A Taste of Wales (3999504) **5.35** Mr and Mrs Show (7506184) **6.05** Susan Powter (8919558) **6.30** Infatuation (9778436) **7.00** Living (9210610) **8.00** Young and Restless (9309558) **9.00** Cagney and Lacey (9216894) **10.00** Charlie's Angels (9219981) **11.00** Hit and Run (1099788) **11.30-12.00** Infatuation UK (1442981)

FAMILY CHANNEL

5.00pm Dangermouse (3436) **5.30** Cliff Hanger (4894) **6.00** The Big Dish (458338) **6.25** All Clued Up (721287) **7.00** Trivial Pursuit (6900) **7.30** My Two Dads (4271) **8.00** Road to Avonlea (44962) **9.00** The Ruth Rendell Mystery Movie. A Sleeping Life (82829) **11.00** Lou Grant (81320) **12.00** Rhoda (59189) **12.30am** Big Brother Jake (30566) **1.00** Dangermouse (38382) **1.30** Trivial Pursuit (53189) **2.00** Bordertown (25943) **2.30** The Black Stallion (57950) **3.00** Lou Grant (94363) **4.00** Rhoda (16295) **4.30-5.00** Big Brother Jake (26547)

MTV

5.00am Wildside (80189) **6.30** The Grind (61078) **7.00** Wildside (57558) **8.00** VJ Ingo (668165) **11.00** Soul (78423) **12.00** Greatest Hits (53900) **1.00pm** The Afternoon Mix (360184) **3.30** Coca-Cola Report (9021879) **3.45** Cinematic (8576784) **4.00** News (1065558) **4.15** 3 from 1 (1975981) **4.30** Dial MTV (5900) **5.00** Music Non-Stop (13894) **7.00** Greatest Hits (92252) **8.00** Most Wanted (21436) **9.30** Beavis and Butt-Head (34829) **10.00** Coca-Cola Report (638962) **10.15** Cinematic (633417) **10.30** News (372097) **10.45** 3 from 1 (360252) **11.00** The End? (46417) **1.00am** Soul (85837) **2.00** The Grind (27301) **2.30-5.00** Videos (550360)

VH-1

7.00am Crawling from the Wreckage (8219184) **9.00** Café VH-1 (8531146) **12.00** The Bridge (1901523) **1.00pm** VH-1 to 1 (9212271) **1.30** Ten of the Best (9843368) **2.30** Heart and Soul (3011146) **3.30** Into the Music (8331897) **6.00** Prime Cuts (1907707) **7.00** VH-1 For You (5211184) **8.00** VH-1 Soul (5297504) **9.00** Ten of the Best (5217368) **10.00** The Bridge (5210455) **11.00** VH-1 to 1 (4219417) **11.30** The Nightfly (4913349) **1.30am** Ten of the Best (5188450) **2.30-7.00** Dawn Patrol

CMT EUROPE

Country music from **8am** to **7pm**, including at **4.00** CMT Delivery Room **5.00** Saturday Nite Dance Ranch **6.00-7.00** Big Ticket

ZEE TV

6.00am Parsian Dawn (62731417) **7.00** Asian Morning (80853894) **8.30** Buniyaad (75232962) **9.00** Punjabi FILM (84447639) **12.00** Ghar (81275287) **1.00pm** Hindi FILM (29428610) **4.00** Mujrim Haazir (78080691) **4.30** Kab Tak Pukaroon (78086875) **5.00** Buniyaad (92733271) **5.30** TVA and You (78000455) **6.00** Alif Laila (78007368) **6.30** Sevebhai Sunderlal (78081320) **7.00** Urdu News (36353815) **7.05** BBCD (84202879) **7.30** Saanp Seedi (78087504) **8.00** News (92739455) **8.30** Ek Minute (92718962) **9.00** Hindi News (25555707) **9.05** FILM (25558252) **12.00** Asian Morning (30969108) **1.30am** Sight and Sound

CARTOON NETWORK/TNT

Continuous cartoons from 5am to 7pm, then TNT films as below.
7.00pm The Amazing Dr Clitterhouse (1938) (18163829) **9.00 Catlow** (1971) (76517894) **11.00 Affectionately Yours** (1941) (91623829) **12.40am You For Me** (1952) (37097653) **2.00 Vacation from Marriage** (1945) (53825108) **3.45-5.00 You For Me** (1952) As 12.40am (21370721)

CNN/QVC

CNN provides 24-hour news and QVC is the home shopping channel

RUGBY UNION 36
FRANCE STAY LOYAL
TO OLD GUARD
FOR WORLD CUP

SPORT

LONDON MARATHON 38
AUSTRALIAN HOPES
TO FOLLOW IN
CHAMPION'S FOOTSTEPS

WEDNESDAY MARCH 29 1995

Sheringham gets chance to make most of wintery Wembley conditions

England draw cold comfort as Cole sits out

By Rob Hughes, football correspondent

WHEN Napoleon Bonaparte mused about having generals who were lucky, he might have guessed that Terry Venables would one day lead the troops at Wembley. Going into battle tonight without Cole to score the goals, the England coach has called up the coldest blast of winter weather in the long history of games against Uruguay. Come kick-off time, those Latin opponents whom we have found impossible to beat for the past 26 years will find another cold shiver around their ears, another night when the London temperature is 30°C lower than their custom.

This is the way to beat those Uruguayans who, forgetting any gratitude that it was British railway workers who taught *them* to kick leather, had the temerity to win at Wembley the last time they visited in 1990. Our error that year, and on every other occasion that we have met Uruguay, was to play the game on a summer evening.

John Barnes, the England scorer in a 2-1 defeat, is the only survivor, though Paul Gascoigne, who also played in that match, is nearly fit again. Peter Beardsley, 34 years young, appeared in the match as a substitute, and of course starts tonight as the prompt for Venables' preferred lone forward, Teddy Sheringham.

It is interesting that Uruguay and England, having shared so much down the years, find themselves in such similar situations. England rank twentieth on Fifa's list of form; Uruguay are 36th. Both nations missed the World Cup party last summer, both are rebuilding to host major tournaments — Uruguay the Copa America next summer, England, of course, the 1996 European championship.

McDonald returns 37
Jackson's baptism 37
Upbeat Smith 37

And, while England deploy Sheringham, standing in for his sixth cap in place of the injured Shearer, Uruguay have Daniel Fonseca, of Roma, in a similar role, although the Uruguayans, with a trifle more adventure in their souls, have another forward, Gustavo Poyet, who will also oppose Chelsea in their Cup Winners' Cup game in Zaragoza next week.

Whereas Beardsley admits that he had a rare night in Dublin where, though the game lasted only 27 minutes, he struggled to find his touch, so the Uruguayans bring back Enzo Francescoli, now 33. No longer the quick D'Artagnan figure he once was, Francescoli nevertheless possesses all of the cunning of Beardsley and more. Tall, gaunt and sometimes too deep in his thoughts to concentrate solely on football, he was the great unfulfilled Uruguayan of the World Cup finals of 1986; a creator surrounded by players given licence to butchery.

Clearly this is no longer as gifted a Uruguayan side as the ones who, representing a nation of three million people, have produced twice as many World Cup successes as have England. Uruguay won the trophy in both 1930 and 1950 and, all through their history, their sport has been characterised by great technical beauty laced with considerable poison.

On form, England should have little to fear tonight. They are unbeaten under Venables, and Uruguay have drawn two of their past four games — each time 2-2 against Spain and the United States — lost 1-0 in Mexico and won 1-0 in Peru. For statisticians, the only Uruguayan sent off in those games was Nelson Gutierrez, the ageing defender, one of the few survivors of 1986.

However, when playing at home, it is customary to contemplate victory, to concentrate indeed on the strengths that we hope we possess. Venables, for all that he allowed the media to concentrate on Andy Cole and Jamie Redknapp in the build-up to this match, probably never intended to stray from the style or the make-up that has begun to form a dependable nucleus of his side for 1996.

There is Tim Flowers in goal in place of the injured David Seaman, a change that could easily become permanent. The back four — Jones, Adams, Pallister, Le Saux — are almost fixtures, though Fonseca and Francescoli running them along the ground may unhinge them.

And, in a midfield of Anderton, Platt and Barnes, there is a "new" anchor, Barry Venison. Hardly young at 30, he replaces Ince and, having had one cap against the United States, he may well consolidate a place in the squad and may even be more reliable in the defensive mode than Ince and Platt between them appeared in Dublin.

That leaves Beardsley roaming and Sheringham, with his back to goal, trying to thread attacks for midfield runners. "Teddy does not get recognition for a lot of what he does," Venables, his coach at Tottenham before the brusque parting of the ways, observes. "You either appreciate Teddy, or you don't." Appreciation tonight may be in the eye of the beholder.

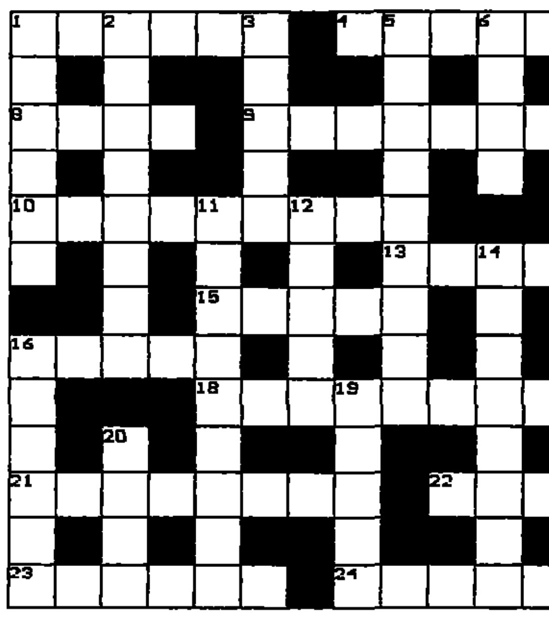
TONIGHT'S TEAMS AT WEMBLEY

ENGLAND (4-4-1-1)	URUGUAY (probable) (4-3-1-2)
T Flowers (Blackburn Rovers)	O Ferro (Penarol)
R Jones (Liverpool)	D Lopez (River Plate)
A Adams (Arsenal)	O Aguirregaray (Penarol)
G Pallister (Manchester Utd)	A Gutierrez (Nacional)
G Le Saux (Blackburn Rovers)	R Montero (Atalanta)
J Barnes (Liverpool)	D Dorta (Penarol)
B Venison (Newcastle Utd)	G Cedras (River Plate)
D Platt (Sampdoria)	P Bengoechea (Penarol)
D Anderton (Tottenham Hotspur)	E Francescoli (River Plate)
P Beardsley (Newcastle Utd)	G Poyet (Real Zaragoza)
E Sheringham (Tottenham Hotspur)	D Fonseca (Roma)

Referee: H Krug (Germany)

☐ *Substitutes to be named tonight*

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 432

ACROSS
- 1 Court case: attraction (6)
- 4 Skirmish (6)
- 8 Moment: parasitic arachnid (4)
- 9 One righting abuses (8)
- 10 Decide to stop (4,1,4)
- 13 Mendicant monk (5)
- 15 Steam bath (5)
- 16 Collector's item (5)
- 18 Permission to proceed; gap (9)
- 21 Violent disturbance (8)
- 22 Electoral district; Mrs Humphry – (4)
- 23 Basket: hinder (6)
- 24 Rapid (6)

DOWN
- 1 Connect (6)
- 2 Special, odd (8)
- 3 Stagger; what the abandoned are left in (5)
- 5 Festivity on frozen Thames (hist.) (5,4)
- 6 City, sounds like *wander* (4)
- 7 Ball aimed under bat (6)
- 11 Colleague (9)
- 12 Sharp, serious (5)
- 14 With which the severe and inflexible rule (4,4)
- 16 Squat down (6)
- 17 Entice; show the way (4,2)
- 19 World-bearing Titan: some mountains (5)
- 20 False, unreal (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 431

ACROSS: 6 Not give a hoot 7 Winnow 8 Outset 9 Bear 10 Go-getter 12 Body shop 16 Undo 18 Diadem 20 Suburb 21 Merry-go-round

DOWN: 1 Stingray 2 Bigwig 3 Belong 4 Chit 5 Popeye 6 Noise 11 Thumbs up 13 Oliver 14 Homage 15 Pastry 17 Dared 19 Dark

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MARC ASPLAND

Venables, the England coach, prepares a chilly reception for Uruguay during squad training yesterday

Gascoigne cleared to return

By Our Sports Staff

PAUL GASCOIGNE will be back in action again in two weeks' time, his medical team announced yesterday. The injury-plagued England player, who broke his leg a year ago, has been cleared to return by Dr Claudio Bartolini, the team doctor at his club, Lazio, and by his specialist, Maurizio Manzini.

In a statement issued through Gascoigne's London-based surgeon, John Browett, Manzini said: "Dr Bartolini and myself have been in discussion regarding Paul Gascoigne. We are both of the opinion that he will be able to return to full match-play football from the second week of April, as it is felt that his right tibia has gained enough strength.

"This decision has been carefully made, as the player himself has no physical inhibitions or limitations. The player will return to the field wearing a fully protective shin guard."

A trim-looking Gascoigne appeared at an England training session at Bisham Abbey over the weekend, but he was shielded from any work involving physical contact.

The 27-year-old linchpin of England's 1990 World Cup campaign, who has fought a constant battle against a tendency to put on weight, is said to have lost 44lb during his latest fitness drive.

Terry Venables, the England coach, who signed Gascoigne for Tottenham Hotspur from Newcastle United, before selling him to Lazio, may invite the midfield player to a further squad session at the end of April.

Venables wants Gascoigne in contention for the four-nation tournament involving Brazil, Japan and Sweden in June.

Double celebration for Rackemann

Simon Wilde explains why Queenslanders were in joyful mood at the Gabba yesterday

Having squandered numerous golden opportunities to lay their hands on Australia's inter-state trophy in the previous 68 years, Queensland's cricketers yesterday won the Sheffield Shield for the first time with a ruthlessness that told of previous frustrations.

In beating South Australia in Brisbane, they achieved a higher total (664) and a larger margin of victory (an innings and 101 runs) than any previous team in a Shield final. As Queensland had finished top of the qualifying stages, technically a draw would have been enough; emotionally, only an outright win was sufficient.

When the last South Australia wicket fell, to a catch by Carl Rackemann, the longest-serving member of the team, thousands of spectators swarmed onto the ground to congratulate the winners. Rackemann, 34, soon had further cause for rejoicing when he learnt of his call-up to the Australia team touring West Indies as replacement for the injured Craig McDermott. "I've been too old for three years, this is the last thing I expected," said Rackemann, who last played Test cricket in January 1991.

Stuart Law, the Queensland captain, said simply: "We're No 1 — and it's about time." Wayne Goss, the state premier, joined in the celebrations and was drenched in champagne. "Who cares?" he said. "This victory was one of my election promises." The team will be given a ticker-tape parade through Brisbane tomorrow.

Ironically, Queensland, who have employed several famous imports, were without an overseas player. Tom Graveney, Majid Khan, Vivian Richards, Alvin Kallicharran, Ian Botham and Graeme Hick all failed to take the Shield to Brisbane, although Botham went closest, helping them to the final in 1988 before becoming involved in an in-flight fracas on the way to the match, which Queensland then lost. Botham was subsequently sacked.

The state has also brought in players from other parts of Australia, notably Greg Chappell from South Australia and Jeff Thomson and Allan Border from New South Wales. Chappell and Thomson helped take them close to the Shield in the Seventies, but Border, who joined in 1980 and under whose leadership the 1985 final was lost by only one wicket, has survived to fulfil his remaining ambition in the game. Border, 39, scored 98 in Queensland's innings and is now expected to retire.

Border: goal achieved

All the anguish would not have been necessary had the "Bulls" – or "Bananalanders" as they were then nicknamed — got it right at the first attempt, as they so nearly did. Queensland lost their first-ever match in the Shield, against New South Wales in November 1926, by only seven runs after being set a target of 522. As a result, South Australia, and not Queensland, won the competition that season. Yesterday's victory could not have come against more appropriate opponents.

Elf contend race fuel 'rigorously respected' regulations

By Oliver Holt

ELF, the French oil company, said yesterday that the fuel it supplied to teams for the Brazilian Grand Prix on Sunday was legal and obeyed rules set by the International Automobile Federation (FIA).

The Benetton and Williams teams lodged appeals after their drivers, Michael Schumacher and David Coulthard, were disqualified for allegedly using illegal fuel. Schumacher, the world champion driver, finished in first place, with Coulthard second.

"The procedure Elf followed for the making of the fuels used in the Brazilian Grand Prix by the seven teams it supplies rigorously respected the rules set by the FIA," the Paris-based company said. Five of the teams Elf supply were not found to have been using the wrong fuel.

A statement criticised motor racing authorities for not supplying details of the fuel tests, and for not allowing the teams to consult experts before disqualifying the drivers.

Elf, which said it had never been sanctioned in 28 years of supplying Formula One, urged the teams to demand that the FIA send them details of the tests and said it would conduct independent checks.

Bernie Ecclestone, president of the Formula One Constructors' Association, said last night it was probable that every Formula One driver would be weighed again before the next grand prix, in Argentina in ten days' time.

His comments come in the wake of the controversy surrounding the fluctuating weight of Schumacher. When Schumacher was weighed after the grand prix on Sunday, he was found to be more than five kilograms less than his entry weight on the official list, which had been compiled three days earlier.

The weight difference led to suspicions that Schumacher had been trying to take advantage of new regulations to run with a lighter car, although an unscheduled check after the race found that the driver and his car complied.

☐ FIA inspectors are satisfied with changes at the Imola track, where Ayrton Senna and Roland Ratzenberger died in accidents, last year, paving the way for approval of the San Marino Grand Prix on April 30.

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